

**LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AND FORESTRY**



2013 STRATEGIC PLAN

**SUBMITTED BY:
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COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY**



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THE LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

The Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry is charged with overseeing the affairs of two of the state's largest industries -- agriculture and forestry. To that end, the agency is responsible for administering the laws, rules and regulations of the state regarding the growing, harvesting, processing, storage and sale of crop and livestock commodities.

To affect these goals, the department is divided into six divisions: one serves the financial, personnel and administrative management functions of the agency; and the other five are largely regulatory, serving to enforce the laws and regulations that govern the growing, harvesting, processing and distribution of Louisiana crops and livestock.

More specifically, the laws, rules and regulations govern the use of pesticides; the quality of fertilizers and seeds; the protection of animal health and food safety; the storage of grains; the inspection of fruits, vegetables, meats, major row crops and eggs; programs to ensure the health and long-term viability of our soil and water resources, the regulation of florists and nurserymen; the policing of livestock and rural farm theft; the registration of livestock brands; the calibration of motor fuel pumps; the calibration of all instruments that weigh and measure items for commercial sale and the growing of forestry seedling stock.

These laws, rules and regulations also ensure that the food is safe to eat and that it is prepared in sanitary processing facilities and that our forests are replanted for sustainability and protected from diseases and fire.

The department also works with other state, regional, national and international sectors of business and government to fulfill its goal of providing general oversight services for many of the affairs of rural Louisiana.

The Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF) is made up of the following offices:

Office of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (AES)

Office of Agro-Consumer Services (ACS)

Office of Animal Health and Food Safety (AHFS)

Office of Forestry

Office of Management and Finance (OMF)

Office of Soil and Water Conservation (SWC)



OFFICE OF AGRICULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

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Program Description:

The Office of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences administers the provisions of law relating to fertilizers, agricultural liming materials, boll weevil eradication, sweet potato diseases, crop pests and diseases, seeds, feeds, pesticides, horticulture, and apiaries. Statutes administered by the Office include R.S. 3:16,19, 20, 1024 and 1025, 1381-1430.13, 1431-1449, 1601-1617, 1651-1656, 1731-1736, 1741-1748, 1771-1775, 2301-2311, 2351-2354, 3201-3391.12, 3396.1-3396.6, 3801-3816; and R.S. 36:621 and 628. The Office receives its authority under R.S. 36:628(C). The Office is comprised of four divisions: Agricultural Chemistry Programs, Horticulture and Quarantine Programs, Pesticide and Environmental Programs, and Seed Programs. The FY 13 budget for the Office as enacted by Act 13 of the 2013 Regular Session is \$19,573,386.

The Horticulture & Quarantine Programs Division monitors for and provides for the prevention, control, and eradication of regulated and exotic crop pests or diseases endangering Louisiana's agricultural (food and fiber), forestry, horticultural, and apiary industries and the environment; ensures that products certified for export from Louisiana are free from regulated pests; and oversees the qualifications and practices of persons engaged in the green industry. This Division licenses and permits horticulture related businesses, and inspects, samples, surveys, monitors, and oversees control or eradication efforts for plant pests, including boll weevil. These activities are accomplished through the implementation and enforcement of the Horticulture Law, Boll Weevil Eradication Law, Crop Pests and Diseases Law, Sweet Potato Diseases Law and Apiary Law. Additionally, this Division partners with USDA and the LSU AgCenter for many of its quarantine or regulated pest activities, safeguarding agriculture and the environment for Louisiana stakeholders with the greatest efficiency and effectiveness possible.

The Pesticide and Environmental Programs Division inspects, enforces and regulates the registration, distribution, sale, offering for sale, and application of pesticides. The Division regulates, trains and certifies Private and Commercial Pesticide Applicators, Structural Pest Control Applicators, Restricted Use Pesticide (RUP) Salespersons, Agricultural Consultants, and Worker Protection Standards (WPS) Trainers, as well as regulates and licenses or permits respective businesses. The Division also monitors the state's water resources for pesticides and participates in affiliated federal programs such as Endangered Species, Worker Protection and USDA Food Safety.

The Seed Programs Division is charged with ensuring that seed sold for planting purposes meets seed label guarantees and quality standards. In doing so, it prevents Louisiana from becoming a dumping ground for low quality planting seed and ensures that a mechanism is in place to provide a reliable source of high quality seed from superior new crop varieties for Louisiana producers. The responsibilities of the Seed Programs Division are: 1) Enforcement of the Seed Laws and Regulations; 2) Management of the Seed Certification Program; and 3) Operation of the Official State Seed Testing Laboratory.

The Agricultural Chemistry Programs Division is responsible for administering state laws and regulations which regulate the manufacturing and sale of animal feeds, pet foods, fertilizers and agricultural liming materials for the purpose of ensuring that the products meet the standards outlined in state and federal law and to ensure that those products do not endanger the

environment or public health. The Agricultural Chemistry Laboratory is responsible for analyzing agricultural chemicals and other farm input components as part of regulatory enforcement of feed, fertilizers, and agricultural lime. It is the testing laboratory for the Division of Pesticide and Environmental Programs, providing analysis in the enforcement of the Pesticide Law. Agricultural Chemistry also provides analytical support for the Office of Animal Health and Food Safety, the LSU AgCenter and the general public.

A statewide force of agricultural environmental specialists carry out field inspections and investigations to ensure compliance with laws and are spread across the state in seven districts. These specialists are cross-trained in all Office programs to ensure proficiency in each area. Violators of regulations may be issued warnings or brought before a commission to answer alleged violations.

Mission:

The mission of the Office of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences is to ensure that animal feeds, pet foods, fertilizers, agricultural liming materials and pesticides meet all requirements of law; to monitor, prevent, control and eradicate plant pests and diseases that threaten Louisiana's agriculture, environment and economy; to facilitate agricultural exports through certification of products; to oversee the qualifications and practices of persons engaged in the green industry; to protect human health and the environment by ensuring the proper labeling, distribution, storage, use, application and disposal of pesticides, and through enforcement of all pesticide laws; to ensure that seed sold for planting meets label guarantees and quality standards; and to ensure a safe, abundant supply of food and fiber.

Goals:

The goals of the Office of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences are to: 1) assure, through sampling and inspection, that feed, fertilizer, lime, horticultural products, imported and exported agricultural products, pesticides, and seeds meet or exceed the quality standards set by federal and Louisiana laws, rules, and regulations; and 2) through licensing, certification, surveillance and training, assure a level of competency in services and products provided by those industries regulated in an effort to protect the public and the environment.

OBJECTIVE I

The Horticulture & Quarantine Programs Division will continue to monitor for and provide for the prevention, control, and eradication of regulated and exotic crop pests or diseases endangering Louisiana's agricultural (food and fiber), forestry, horticultural, and apiary industries and the environment; ensure that products certified for export from Louisiana are free from regulated pests; and oversee the qualifications and practices of persons engaged in the green industry. This Division licenses and permits horticulture related businesses, and inspects, samples, surveys, monitors, and oversees eradication efforts for plant pests, including boll weevil. These activities are accomplished through the implementation and enforcement of the Horticulture Law and Regulations (R.S. 3:3801-3816 and LAC 7:XXIX.101-123); Crop Pests and Disease Law and Plant Protection and Quarantine Regulations (R.S. 3:1651-1656 and LAC 7:XV.101-327); Sweet Potato Diseases Law (R.S. 3:1731-1736); Louisiana Apiary Law and Regulations (R.S. 3:2301-2311 and LAC 7:XXI.2501-2521); and the Boll Weevil Eradication Law (R.S. 3:1601-1617). Additionally, this Division partners with USDA and the LSU AgCenter for many of its quarantine or regulated pest activities, safeguarding agriculture and the environment for Louisiana stakeholders with the greatest efficiency and effectiveness possible.

STRATEGY 1.1

Protect the public and the environment of Louisiana by overseeing the qualifications and practices of persons engaged in the green industry through effective licensing, permitting, and enforcement activities.

- < Administer and grade examinations in the following professions: Landscape Architect, Landscape Horticulturist, Landscape Irrigation Contractor, Arborist, Utility Arborist, Retail Florist, and Wholesale Florist.
- < Process applications and issue licenses in the above professions and permits/registrations in the occupations of Nursery Stock Dealer, Cut Flower Dealer, Sweet Potato Dealer and Beekeeper.
- < Confirm compliance with license and permit requirements, and investigate complaints of violations.
- < Conduct adjudicatory hearings of possible violators.

STRATEGY 1.2

Safeguard against the introduction and spread of plant pests into Louisiana's agricultural and forestry industries and the environment, to sustain and enhance protection of our food supply and our 'green industry' economies, and to enable and increase the exportation of Louisiana agricultural products, by conducting effective surveillance (inspections, sampling, surveying,

monitoring) and eradication/management efforts for plant and honeybee pests and ensuring that materials are free from injurious pests and diseases.

- < Inspect, sample, and certify nurseries for pest freedom to allow for shipment of products.
- < Inspect, survey, and monitor for sweet potato weevil to manage populations and prevent spread to weevil-free areas and to other states.
- < Inspect, sample, and certify agricultural commodities to ensure pest freedom for export to other states and countries.
- < Conduct effective post-entry inspections of propagative stock or commodities entering Louisiana to ensure freedom of plant pests of quarantine concern.
- < Conduct effective surveys for plant pests currently not known to exist in Louisiana and eradicate or manage any that may be detected.
- < Review applications and provide regulatory oversight of permits for field testing of genetically engineered crops.
- < Provide for the registration of beekeepers and their colonies.
- < Perform effective inspections and certification of honeybees for interstate movement.
- < Provide regulatory oversight for the importation of honeybees into the U.S. through Louisiana for research purposes.

STRATEGY 1.3

Conduct an effective boll weevil eradication program in the state.

- < Effectively survey and monitor all acres of cotton in the state for boll weevils.
- < Effectively treat any acres of cotton in the state that are found to be infested with boll weevil.
- < Utilize available technologies and Best Management Practices to efficiently maintain Louisiana's boll weevil-free status.
- < Continue survey and monitoring activities to prevent reintroduction of boll weevil into Louisiana.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:

< Horticulture Commission:

- Percent of Horticulture non-compliance notices resulting in a hearing
- Horticulture notices of non-compliance issued
- Adjudicatory cases heard
- Number of Horticulture professional licensing exams administered
- Number of Horticulture professional licenses issued
- Number of Horticulture occupational permits issued

< Plant Pest Quarantine Programs

- Number of nursery shipping tags issued
- Inspections for Imported Fire Ant certification
- Nursery certificate permits issued
- Surveys completed for non-indigenous pests
- Phytosanitary export certificates issued
- Plant pest quarantine related investigations
- Post entry quarantine inspections
- Plant pest quarantine related compliance inspections
- Transgenic crop applications processed
- Transgenic crop field trials inspected
- Percent sweet potato acres weevil free
- Sweet Potato weevils detected in weevil-free areas
- Sweet potato regulatory inspections
- Sweet potato dealer permits issued
- Honeybee shipments certified for out of state movement
- Queen and package honeybee producers certified
- Beekeepers registered

< Boll Weevil Program:

- Percentage of Cotton Acres Weevil Free
- Cotton Boll Weevils Trapped

Customers: the general population of Louisiana.

Limiting Factors: further reduction of authorized positions, federal budget cuts, appearance of a quarantine pest that results in resource expenditures beyond capacity.

OBJECTIVE II

The Office of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Pesticide and Environmental Programs Division will continue to protect the environment along with the health and general prosperity of Louisiana's citizens by providing for the safe and proper distribution, use, and management of pesticides; by facilitating the protection of natural resources and pollution prevention; and by providing for effective control of pests. This program will address complaints, priority concerns, and initiatives through participation in community based environmental protection in addition to developing programs for pollution prevention and promotion of risk reduction/mitigation. The Division is administered under R.S. 3:19, 20, 3201-3391.13(Chapter 20, Pesticide Law), and LAC Title 7 Parts XXIII (Pesticides) and XXV (Structural Pest Control). The Division

participates in cooperative agreements with EPA, USDA and FDA pursuant to the Federal Insecticide Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) as amended; the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990, (7 U.S.C. 136i-1); Section 713 of Title VII (General Provisions) of Division A of the Public Law 108-7; and the Federal Food Drug and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 301 et seq.).

STRATEGY 2.1

Maintain procedures for registration of any pesticide sold, offered for sale or distributed in Louisiana.

- < Maintain current database of registered pesticides with copy of labels and Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) available via computer access.
- < Conduct random inspections on dealers, distributors and in the market place to locate unregistered pesticides, canceled or suspended pesticides, misbranded and/or pesticides that are not suitable for sale or use.
- < Administer Emergency Exemptions (Section 18's) and State Special Local Need Registrations (Section 24c's).

STRATEGY 2.2

Provide for enforcement of and compliance with the Louisiana Pesticide Law and pursuant rules and regulations.

- < Maintain inspector staff thoroughly trained in techniques of investigating possible violations.
- < Investigate all reports of complaints dealing with pesticides in a timely fashion.
- < Perform routine inspections on sources of pesticide use and take action to assure compliance when violations are noted.

STRATEGY 2.3

Provide for certification and training for all pesticide applicators that apply any pesticide for a fee or apply or supervise the application of any restricted use pesticide.

- < Enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Louisiana State University Agricultural Center Cooperative Extension Service to provide for the education and training of pesticide applicators.
- < Require that certification shall be issued only after the applicant has satisfactorily passed an examination.
- < Perform routine inspections at certification/recertification meetings to assure that minimum standards of education are met.
- < Maintain a database of all certified pesticide applicators.

STRATEGY 2.4

Provide for licensing of businesses engaged in the application of pesticides.

- < Review applications for licenses to assure compliance with the requirements for licensing.
- < Perform routine inspections of businesses applying pesticides to assure compliance.
- < Maintain a database of all businesses licensed under the Louisiana Pesticide Law.

STRATEGY 2.5

Provide clean and safe water in Louisiana by minimizing, mitigating, and preventing pesticide contamination.

- < Maintain a water (surface and ground) sampling program for monitoring the presence of pesticides in water.
- < Provide for determinations and assessments of levels of pesticides detected and determine actions and responses to such detections.

STRATEGY 2.6

Provide for the determination and remedial actions in order to protect health and the environment from pesticide waste.

- < Perform investigations of any circumstances relating to the presence of pesticide waste in the state that poses a threat of reasonable expectation or a threat to health or the environment.
- < Perform evaluations of pesticide waste sites and make determinations of remedial actions.

STRATEGY 2.7

Provide Louisiana citizens with a clean and safe supply of raw agricultural products where pesticides are used.

- < Maintain sampling procedures on Louisiana's raw agricultural products for monitoring of pesticide residues in our food safety sampling program.
- < Make determinations for remedial action if pesticide residues are detected above the standards established.

STRATEGY 2.8

Provide for the protection of Louisiana's agricultural workers from exposure to pesticides.

- < Enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Louisiana State University Agricultural Center Cooperative Extension Service to provide for the education and training of agricultural employers and workers on how to protect themselves from pesticide exposure.
- < Maintain verification of workers and handlers that have received Worker Protection Standards training.

- < Perform routine inspections of agricultural facilities to assure compliance with the Worker Protection Standards.

STRATEGY 2.9

Provide for minimizing adverse effects of pesticide applications on Louisiana's endangered species.

- < Continue to develop a pesticide management plan to mitigate potential pesticide risks to the species.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:

Number of verified environmental incidences by improper pesticide application

Number of pesticide complaints.

Number of inspections

Number of residue samples analyzed

Pesticide products out of compliance

Number of pesticides registered.

Number of pesticide product formulations analyzed.

Number of marketplace inspections.

Number of dealer inspections.

Number of producer establishment inspections

Enforcement actions on products

Applicators out of compliance

Number of certified applicators

Number of uncertified applicators

Health-related complaints confirmed

Health-related incidents reported\inspected

Customers: farmers, growers, applicators and Louisiana citizens

Limiting Factors: further reduction of authorized positions, unfunded federal mandates, federal budget cuts

OBJECTIVE III

The Office of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Agricultural Chemistry Programs Division regulates the sale and use of animal feeds, pet foods, fertilizers, and agricultural liming materials; ensures that these products meet standards set forth by the Association of American Feed Control Officials, the Association of American Plant Food Control Officials, the Federal Food and Drug Administration and the state of Louisiana as provided for in LRS Title 3, Chapter 10-A, Sections 1381-1430.13 (Feed and Fertilizers) and LAC Title 7 Parts XI, XVII, and XIX; and provides analytical services for the Pesticide and Environmental Programs Division, and the LSU AgCenter.

STRATEGY 3.1

Inspect the manufacturing sites and retail outlets where these products are produced or housed to ensure good manufacturing practices, proper storage, and correct labeling.

STRATEGY 3.2	Take samples of the products and submit them to the laboratory for chemical analyses to ensure quality and safety and ensure that they meet label guarantees.
STRATEGY 3.3	Investigate consumer complaints related to alleged problems arising from the use of these products.
STRATEGY 3.4	Work closely with manufacturers to reduce deficiencies and ensure that products do not harm crops, animals, humans, or the environment.
STRATEGY 3.5	Maintain records of registration of products, inspections, analyses, and all other pertinent data.
STRATEGY 3.6	Provide analyses of pesticide formulation samples and samples for pesticide residue for the purpose of enforcement of the Louisiana Pesticide Law.
STRATEGY 3.7	Provide analyses for research scientists in the L.S.U. Agricultural Experimental Station.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:

Percentage of feed sold that meets guarantees and standards.

Percentage of fertilizer and lime sold that meets guarantees and standards.

Dollar amount of penalties paid to farmers.

Dollar amount of penalties paid to state.

Total tons of feed tested.

Total tons of fertilizer and agricultural lime tested.

Number of regulatory feed samples.

Number of regulatory fertilizer and agricultural lime samples.

Number of feed facility inspections.

Customers: farmers, Louisiana citizens

Limiting Factors: further reduction of authorized positions

OBJECTIVE IV

The Office of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences Seed Programs Division, which is authorized under R. S. 3:1431-1447, will continue to prevent Louisiana from becoming a dumping ground for low quality seeds by making sure seed being offered for sale meets quality standards and truth-in-labeling requirements. This program also administers the Seed Certification Program that ensures a mechanism is in place to provide a reliable source of high quality seed from superior new crop varieties for Louisiana producers. The state seed testing laboratory is the only seed testing and certification facility available to farmers and consumers in

the state. Out-of-state commercial seed testing laboratories charge four to six times more for their services.

STRATEGY 4.1

Reduce selling of low quality agricultural seeds, vegetable seeds and lawn/turf seeds to farmers and consumers.

- < Prevent Louisiana from becoming a dumping ground for poor quality seeds by randomly sampling agricultural seeds to ensure “truth-in-labeling”.
- < Regulatory testing ensures varietal purity, freedom of noxious weeds and information valuable to farmers to determine planting rates.
- < Maintain cooperative agreement with USDA Seed Branch in assisting in enforcement of the Federal Seed Act.

STRATEGY 4.2

Provide quality control service for businesses selling seeds.

- < Serve as a quality control laboratory for seedsmen to check and monitor the condition of their seeds in stock and as a means to obtain germination percentages to update the “test date” on lots of seed offered for sale (all agricultural and most vegetable seeds have a date of test on the label and the seed can legally be sold for only 9 months, inclusive of the month of “*test date*” on tag).

STRATEGY 4.3

Provide non-biased investigations and documentation of seed quality, labeling and field stand complaints.

- < Maintain inspector staff thoroughly trained in the most current techniques and apply those investigative techniques to seed complaints that could lead to civil litigation.

STRATEGY 4.4

Provide seed testing services for those companies or individuals wanting standard or special seed tests on agricultural, vegetable, lawn or forest seeds.

- < Perform standard purity and germination tests so that seedsmen can label seed lots.
- < Perform special vigor tests to aid farmers to more accurately project actual field emergence of seeds planted.

STRATEGY 4.5

Educate seedsmen, farmers and consumers of the requirements of the Louisiana Seed Law and its pursuant rules and regulations.

- < Educating and offering compliance assistance to seed dealers, farmers and consumers is a prerequisite to enforcement and is a continuous process as new people enter the business.

STRATEGY 4.6

Provide accurate analyses of seed lots used in state highway contracts and in Soil Conservation Service (SCS)/Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) Programs.

- Provide analysis reports on seed lots used in highway construction projects. Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) law requires that a contractor must produce analysis reports from the Louisiana State Seed Testing Laboratory in order to be reimbursed for seed lots used in a public job.
- Provide analysis reports to farmers on seed lots they have planted in order to receive program payments for SCS or ASCS.

STRATEGY 4.7

Maintain genetic purity and physical quality of superior crop varieties.

- Inspect seed fields to determine if requirements are met as set forth in the Louisiana Seed Certification Standards.
- Make provisions for rogueing out undesirable plant types and noxious weeds.
- Collect samples and perform laboratory analysis to determine eligibility for certification.

STRATEGY 4.8

Provide a mechanism whereby Louisiana seed companies may export seed to European countries who are members of the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

- Enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with USDA to carry out OECD seed schemes.
- Inspect seed fields to determine OECD eligibility.

STRATEGY 4.9

Perform phytosanitary inspections of seed fields to facilitate seed exports.

- Inspect fields to determine the presence or absence of organisms of concern to importing countries.
- Issue reports to accompany seeds in transit to other countries verifying presence or absence of specific organisms.

STRATEGY 4.10

Maintain records to ensure the identity of all certified seed is preserved.

- Require that grower names, field numbers and proof relating to source of seed be submitted with application for certification.
- Require seed companies and producers to use bulk-shipping reports when moving bulk seed that is eligible for certification across state lines.
- Require certified seed processors to maintain strict records to ensure the integrity of certified seed lots is not jeopardized in processing.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:

Percent of seed samples tested within tolerance

Number of seed samples tested

Number of seed samples tested within tolerance

Percent of acres planted with tested seed

Number of licensed seed dealers

Percent of acres petitioned for certification that meet the requirements of Standards

Number of participating farmers

Number of acres potentially planted from the production of Louisiana certified seed

Number of acres petitioned for certification

Number of acres petitioned for certification that meet the requirements of Standards

****Louisiana is one of only five states that produce certified rice seed.**

*****Louisiana is the only state that produces certified sugarcane seed.**

Customers: farmers, growers, retail seed dealers, seed distributors, certified seed growers, cattlemen and citizens of Louisiana.

Limiting factors: further reduction of authorized positions



OFFICE OF AGRO-CONSUMER SERVICES

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OFFICE OF AGRO-CONSUMER SERVICES

The Office of Agro-Consumer Services is comprised of the Louisiana Agricultural Commodities Commission, the Weights and Measures Division, the Dairy Division, and the Commodities Promotion and Research Division.

The mission of the Office of Agro-Consumer Services is to ensure that equity prevails in the marketplace by regulating various aspects of commerce and trade and by promoting and heightening consumer awareness of Louisiana's agricultural commodities to increase sales, thereby enhancing the economic well-being of Louisiana farmers and the State as a whole. The Office ensures that Louisiana consumers get what they pay for, that producers have markets available and receive fair compensation for their commodities, and that businesses have a favorable environment in which to operate. To carry out this mission, the Office of Agro-Consumer Services Program: (1) regulates the measuring, transportation, and sale of dairy products; (2) licenses, inspects, and audits all grain dealers, warehouses, and cotton merchants in the state; (3) inspects and certifies all commercially used weights, measures, and weighing and measuring devices including motor fuel dispensers, taxi meters, and point of sale price scanners; (4) licenses scale companies and technicians; (5) provides price stability in the marketplace and assures an environment conducive to fair and equal competition as provided under Dairy Stabilization Board rules and regulations; (6) maintains the official state standards of mass, length and volume, which are traceable to the National Institute of Standards & Technology; and (7) promotes the development, production, and sale of Louisiana commodities through research and marketing activities.

The goal of the Office of Agro-Consumer Services is to provide services that ensure consumer protection for all Louisiana citizens, to promote economic growth in the state by maintaining a fair and competitive business environment, to improve the ability of Louisiana producers to capitalize upon promotion and research opportunities, to strengthen Louisiana's farmers markets and roadside vegetable stands, and to educate potential consumers of the positive benefits of buying fresh local agricultural products.

LOUISIANA AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES COMMISSION

The Louisiana Agricultural Commodities Commission (LACC) was created by the Louisiana Legislature in 1982 by combining the Grain Division and the Warehouse Commission. The Agricultural Commodities Commission was created due to losses suffered by Louisiana producers and landowners in the event of an insolvency or bankruptcy. In 1997 the Louisiana Legislature passed a law requiring cotton merchants to be regulated by the Louisiana Agricultural Commodities Commission due to the losses suffered by cotton producers in the state similar to those of grain dealers and warehouses.

The Louisiana Agricultural Commodities Commission is responsible for the licensing of all agricultural warehouses, grain dealers and cotton merchants doing business in Louisiana. There were 35 warehouses, 62 grain dealers, and 14 cotton merchants licensed for the 2012-13 licensing period. The Commission requires a financial statement, proof of provisional stock

insurance, a bond (or other approved form of security) and other supporting documents be presented to the Commission before being approved for a license. All financial statements are carefully reviewed to make sure every applicant is financially stable so the Louisiana producer will be guaranteed payment.

WAREHOUSE PROGRAM

The Commission employees perform physical inventories (approximately 450 examinations annually) of all licensed warehouses in this state. The examiners measure each grain bin and take an inventory to ensure the amount of stored grain is equal to the amount the producers have in storage.

In addition, the Agricultural Commodities Commission is responsible for verifying warehouse receipts that are used by producers and lending institutions. Producers and processing plants use the state warehouse receipts as a means of financing their operations. The examiners issue and check these receipts to ensure that the warehouse receipts reflect the grain that is actually stored in the warehouse. The total value of warehouse receipted grain in the fiscal year 2012 exceeded \$ 55,900,000.00

GRAIN INSPECTION PROGRAM – OFFICIAL GRAIN INSPECTION SERVICES

The Grain Inspection Program involves performing federally mandated grain inspection procedures on grain grading and sampling when requests are made. These requests are made on a variety of grain carriers (i.e. barges, rail cars, trucks) and producer submitted samples.

GRAIN SAMPLER/GRADER CERTIFICATION

Grain graders are certified each year by a series of written examinations and samples that are reviewed by department graders. There is a testing and certification fee assessed on each applicant.

In 2012, the Agricultural Commodities Commission certified 66 grain graders and samplers. The certification process generated \$1,680.00 in revenue.

MOISTURE METER REGISTRATION AND TESTING

The Agricultural Commodities Commission certifies all moisture meters utilized in assessing discounts to producers each year. This is accomplished by cross checking grain dealer moisture meters with department owned moisture meters. There is a fee charged for each inspection. In FY 2012, 277 moisture meters were registered and tested generating \$8,320 in revenue.

COTTON MERCHANT PROGRAM

The Cotton Merchant Program was revised and commingled with the Louisiana Agricultural Commodities Commission on August 15, 1997. This program was initiated due to numerous losses to cotton producers who sold cotton to the merchants that were not financially sound. The law now requires a financial statement containing a Balance Sheet, Statement of Retained Earnings, Statement of Income and Statement of Cash Flow be submitted so that each merchant's financial position can be assessed accurately in order to achieve minimal losses to producers. This program provides the Louisiana cotton producers the security of selling their commodity with the assurance of receiving payment.

CONCLUSION

The Agricultural Commodities Commission currently operates with a total of 15 full-time positions and up to 5 seasonal positions. These positions were previously divided between the two separate divisions. The current format of the Agricultural Commodities Commission allows better utilization of manpower by the Warehouse Program and the Grain Inspection Program.

The budget of the Agricultural Commodities Commission is totally self-generated. The budget is maintained by a series of fees assessed to users of the various services offered by the Agricultural Commodities Commission. Examples of the fees are:

- Assessment on each bushel of grain sold.
- Inspection fee on each request for official grain inspection service.
- Fee for moisture meter inspection.
- Fee for certifying each grain grader/sampler.

As a result of the services that the Agricultural Commodities Commission provides, there has been minimal loss to Louisiana producers as a result of grain dealer insolvency or bankruptcy. Producers are now assured of receiving fair and accurate grades on commodities sold to grain dealers in this state.

OBJECTIVE 1 – AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES COMMISSION

To provide an effective program of regulation of the Louisiana grain and cotton industry in order for the producers to sell and/or store their agricultural products to financially secure warehouses and grain dealers. The commission also maintains an official grain inspection program and a moisture meter program to provide cost effective services to producers and grain companies. The commission also has a cotton merchant program to assure producers that companies buying cotton are financially able to pay them.

STRATEGY 1.1 Maintain federal designation as an official grain inspection agency.

- Successfully complete tri-annual USDA re-designation as an official agency.

STRATEGY 1.2 Continue to provide cost-effective services to producers and grain companies.

- Save grain producers and grain companies unnecessary fees.

STRATEGY 1.3 Provide training seminars for grain graders and department inspectors.

- Ensure that inspectors have the necessary skills and equipment.

STRATEGY 1.4 Cross utilize inspectors for better efficiency and effectiveness within the agency.

- Reduce costs and redundancy by cross training inspectors so that each inspector can be utilized in all aspects of the grain and warehouse programs.

Performance Indicator	Actual 2011-12	Existing 2012-13	Continuation 2013-14	Recommended 2013-2014
LA Ag Commodities Commission:				
No. of farmers not fully compensated for their products in regulated facilities.	5	0	5	5
No. of facilities licensed	139	135	145	145
Cost per \$100 value of products protected	1.34	2	2	2
No. of audits performed on facilities	161	500	485	485
Value of products protected (in \$ millions)	1,097	1,250	1,500	1,500

DAIRY DIVISION

The Dairy Stabilization Board, Milk Testing Program and Milk Buyers Bonding Program operate within the framework of the Dairy division. The duties and responsibilities of each program support and compliment each other to the extent that they regulate and/or promote stability and orderly marketing of fluid milk within the state of Louisiana.

Given the importance of the dairy industry in Louisiana and the relative short shelf life of fluid dairy products, orderly marketing is imperative to both the consuming public and the milk producers. The Dairy Stabilization Board addresses problems created in the marketplace; the milk testing program addresses the raw production and handling of milk from the farm to the processing plant. The Milk Buyer Bonding Program is designed to guarantee the payment for milk the farmer sells to the processing plant or cooperative.

DAIRY STABILIZATION BOARD

The purpose of the Dairy Stabilization Board is to provide a regulatory program that is designed to stabilize the Louisiana dairy industry in order to assure an adequate supply of

healthful and wholesome dairy products to Louisiana consumers at fair and reasonable prices.

The Dairy Stabilization Board is composed of eight members appointed by the governor: two milk producers, one wholesale grocer, one processor, one retailer, and three consumers. No consumer member shall be engaged in producing, processing or selling dairy products nor have a personal economic interest in any person who is so engaged.

The dairy industry is peculiarly susceptible to injury resulting from price wars and a variety of disruptive trade practices that flourish in the absence of effective regulation. Price wars and disruptive trade practices tend to cause financial ruin for Louisiana's dairy farmers and for locally owned processors and distributors regardless of how efficient and well managed they might be.

The Dairy Stabilization Board has established regulations to prevent unfair methods of competition, unfair or deceptive acts or practices and disruptive trade practices in the sale of milk and dairy products. To enforce these regulations, the Dairy Stabilization Board licenses processors, distributors, and retailers of dairy products.

The Dairy Stabilization Board also investigates complaints regarding violations of its regulations and audits the financial records of processors, distributors and retailers to determine the costs of manufacturing, selling, and delivering of dairy products.

Funds for the administration and enforcement of this program are entirely from self-generated monies acquired by assessments collected on all dairy products sold in Louisiana.

MILK TESTING

The current law governing volume measurement and butterfat testing of milk and cream is authorized by Act 306 of the 1974 session of the Louisiana Legislature.

The purpose of this law is to regulate the Louisiana dairy industry as related to:

- Measuring, sampling and testing of producer milk
- Licensing of technical personnel
- Issuance of statistical reports
- Establishment of uniform technical procedures throughout the state.

The responsibility of enforcement of this law is assigned to the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Milk Testing Program. The Program issues technical licenses to approximately 160 individuals who participate in the collection of milk.

In 2012, 135 Louisiana dairy farmers produced approximately 218.4 million pounds of fluid milk, having an economic impact of \$43.2 million at the farm level. The

total value of milk, combined with animal sales to Louisiana dairy producers was \$47.9 million. Value added contributed \$69.6 million more. Total economic contribution from dairying including sales from animals is \$117.5 million.

The Milk Testing Program has developed and maintained a very close working relationship with other dairy groups such as the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, Louisiana State University Dairy Science Department, Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service, Louisiana Dairy Products Association and others.

MILK BUYERS BONDING PROGRAM

The Milk Buyers Bonding Program is a part of the Dairy Division and is mandated under Title 7, Chapter 53, Section 5303.

Milk is a perishable product; therefore, the Milk Buyers Bonding Program is a necessary program of the Department of Agriculture and Forestry to guarantee that the 153 dairy farms will receive payment for milk purchased by all Louisiana milk plants and cooperatives.

Dairy farmers are the only farmers whose product is sold and consumed before they are paid for the milk. In the previous 40 years, it has been necessary to invoke the bond on several processors who went out of business.

OBJECTIVE II. DAIRY DIVISION:

To provide an effective program of regulation for the Louisiana dairy industry in order to eliminate speculation and waste; to assure a continued supply of high quality dairy products at fair and reasonable prices; to assure dairy farmers, processors and distributors a fair and stable market for their products; and to enable the Dairy Stabilization Board and the milk testing division to operate within the framework of the Dairy Division to support and compliment each other to the extent that they regulate and/or promote stability and orderly marketing of dairy products in Louisiana.

STRATEGY 2.1

Maintain a licensing program.

Ensure that haulers, technicians, processors, distributors and retailers are properly licensed and that processors are paying proper assessments.

STRATEGY 2.2

Provide a training program for industry personnel.

Ensure all milk haulers and personnel handling milk samples are properly trained. Work closely with milk plants and handlers in regulating and enforcing milk testing laws, rules, and regulations.

STRATEGY 2.3

Maintain a butterfat testing program.

Monitor butterfat sampling, testing, and weighing, and perform periodic tests for comparison.

STRATEGY 2.4

Assure a stable market environment for dairy products.

Provide a regulatory program to prevent unfair methods of competition and deceptive and/or disruptive trade practices in the marketing of milk and dairy products.

Monitor prices of milk and dairy products. Provide a program to investigate potential violation of dairy laws, rules, and regulations.

STRATEGY 2.5

Cross utilization with Agriculture Commodities Commission and Weights and Measures Division employees.

STRATEGY 2.6

Maintain a bonding program.

Assure that processors provide a bond or other surety to ensure payment to dairy farmers.

Performance Indicator	Actual 2011-12	Existing 2012-13	Continuation 2013-14	Recommended 2013-2014
Dairy Division:				
Percentage of possible unfair trade practices that resulted in confirmed violations	0	30	10	10
Number of possible unfair trade practices complaints	16	50	25	25
Number of possible unfair trade practices complaints that resulted in confirmed violations	0	15	10	10
Number of coupons/promotions submitted for approval (new)			70	70
Number of coupons/promotions approved for use (new)			65	65

CUSTOMERS

- Dairy farmers
- Processors, distributors, retailers
- Haulers
- Labs, testing facilities
- Technical personnel
- Marketing groups
- Legislature

LIMITING FACTORS

- Funding
- Licensee participation
- Licensee cooperation
- Compliance

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

The Weights and Measures Law has been in effect since 1948; however, in May, 1992, the Weights and Measures Commission was established by the Louisiana Legislature (Act of 1992). The purpose of this Commission is to ensure equity in the marketplace. The Weights and Measures Commission exercises unbiased judgment to ensure consumer protection for the buyer as well as the seller. The Division keeps a general supervision over the weights and measures as well as weight and measuring devices offered for sale, sold and in use in the state. At least once a year, and more often if necessary, the division inspects, tests, and tries all weights, measures and devices that weigh and measure commercial products.

From time to time, the division weighs or measures and inspects packages or amounts of commodities of whatever kind kept for the purpose of sale, offered or exposed for sale, or sold in the process of delivery, in order to determine whether they contain the amounts represented and whether they are offered for sale in accordance with law enforced by the division.

Federal programs affiliated with the Weights and Measures Commission include the testing of scales at Veterans Administration Hospitals and Military Bases in the state. The division works in conjunction with the Federal Packers and Stockyards ensuring accuracy of the scales to meet their requirements.

TYPES OF SERVICES PROVIDED BY WEIGHTS AND MEASURES DIVISION

1. Scale Inspections
2. Package Inspections
3. Scanner Inspections
4. Taxi Inspections
5. Milk Inspections
6. Calibration of Farm milk tanks
7. Licensing of Weighmasters
8. Metrology testing calibrations
9. Retail Motor Fuel Dispensers

METROLOGY LABORATORY

The Metrology Laboratory serves as the State's primary standards laboratory and as a scientific authority for measurement certification. Specifically, the Metrology

Laboratory maintains the official state standards of mass, length and volume, calibrates and certifies those standards and instruments which are used by state government, commerce, industry, education and research institutions. In addition, it provides technical assistance in the measurement field. Most contracts awarded to industries, especially Federal contracts, stipulate that the standards used in testing and quality control must be certified by an institution that maintains trace ability to the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). All industries and institutions in the state have to rely on our Weights and Measures Laboratory for standard certification. The Weights and Measures Program is currently operating on a budget of \$3,400,000. The program is staffed with 34 Field Inspectors statewide at this time. This division is the official State agency regulating weights, measures and count.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES FEE SCHEDULE

1. Scale Registration:
 - A. Category 1 (0 to 1000 lbs.) \$35.00
 - B. Category 2 (1001 to 10,000 lbs.) \$ 80.00
 - C. Category 3 (over 10,000 lbs.) \$ 185.00
2. Package Inspections No charge
3. Scanner Registrations - per location
 - A. Category A (1 to 10 devices) \$ 50.00
 - B. Category B (11 to 25 devices) \$ 100.00
 - C. Category C (Over 25 devices) \$ 150.00
4. Taxicab Registration, per Cab
 - A. Category 1, per meter..... \$ 50.00
 Service Agency Registration
 - A. Category 1, per location..... \$ 100.00
 Service Person Registration
 - A. Category 1, per technician \$ 50.00
5. Milk Inspections No Charge
6. Milk Tank Calibrations No Charge
7. Weighmaster license
 - A. Category 1, per weighmaster \$ 75.00
8. Metrology Tolerance Testing
 - A. Category 1 (up to and including 10 lbs or
5 kilograms) \$ 2.00

- B. Category 2 (10 lbs or 5 kilograms up to and including 100 lbs or 60 kilograms)..... \$ 5.00
- C. Category 3 (100 lbs or 60 kilograms up to and including 1000 lbs or 500 kilograms)..... \$ 25.00
- D. Category 4 (over 1000 lbs or 500 kilograms)..... \$ 50.00
- 9. Mass Calibration with Report of Corrections and Uncertainties
 - A. Category 1 (up to and including 5 lbs or 3 kilograms)..... \$ 25.00
 - B. Category 2 (over 5 lbs or 3 kilograms and including 50 lbs or 30 kilograms)..... \$ 50.00

NOTE: All tape certification, volumetric testing and calibration or special test not listed shall be performed at a rate of \$30.00 per hour.

OBJECTIVE III - WEIGHTS AND MEASURES DIVISION:

To ensure that equity prevails in the marketplace for both buyers and sellers by inspecting all weighing, measuring, metering, and scanning devices used commercially in the state. In addition, commodities sold by weight, measure, or count are inspected to ensure consumers are getting what they pay for.

STRATEGY 3.1

Continue current programs relating to all areas regulated.

Strive to improve efficiency and effectiveness of various programs to maximize benefits to both consumers and industry.

STRATEGY 3.2

Provide training for personnel

Maintain a properly trained and professional staff to help ensure objective is met.

STRATEGY 3.3

Integrate computer technology into inspections.

Update equipment and aid in the development of computer software to more efficiently transfer inspection data from the field to the home office.

STRATEGY 3.4

Maintain a licensing and registration program.

Ensure service personnel are qualified and that devices used commercially meet Louisiana and NTEP requirements.

STRATEGY 3.5

Maintain certification of Metrology Lab

Ensure that NIST lab requirements are met and that metrologist(s) maintain proper certifications.

Performance Indicator	Actual 2011-12	Existing 2012-13	Continuation 2013-14	Recommended 2013-2014
WEIGHTS AND MEASURES:				
Percentage of regulated businesses with scanners in compliance with accuracy standards during initial inspection	94.2%	92%	95%	95%
No. of scanning device inspections performed	5,619	6,600	6,600	6,600
Percentage of prepackaged commodities tested in compliance with accuracy standards	96	95	1	1
No. of prepackaged commodities tested	729,200	350,000	350,000	350,000
No. of package violations detected	25,732	25,000	25,000	25,000
Percentage of regulated businesses with fuel dispensers in compliance during initial testing/inspection	95.4%	94.00%	95.00%	95.00%
Number of field inspections conducted on petroleum dispensing devices	61,349	64,000	64,500	64,500
Percentage of registered weighing devices in compliance with accuracy standards	94%	92%	95%	95%
No. of weighing devices inspected	17,956	20,000	20,000	20,000

CUSTOMERS

-All commercial businesses using scanning, metering, weighing or measuring devices

LIMITING FACTORS

-Funding
-Compliance

COMMODITY PROMOTION AND RESEARCH

SENIOR FARMERS' MARKET NUTRITION PROGRAM

The Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) is a program established by Congress and administered by the USDA's Food & Nutrition Service. Under the program, FNS makes grants to States, US Territories, and federally recognized Indian tribal governments. The grants must be used to provide low-income seniors with coupons or equivalent benefits they may exchange for eligible foods at farmers' markets, roadside stands and Community Supported Agriculture programs. Eligible foods are fresh, unprepared, locally grown fruits, vegetables, herbs and honey.

The SFMNP was announced in 2001 as a pilot program, and it became a permanent program in 2003. In 2001, the Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry received a grant of \$500,000 of which \$344,208 was used. In 2004, due to program cuts, the department received

\$279,584 and \$281,824 was used. In 2004, there were 23 farmers' markets, 61 roadside stands and 205 farmers participating in the program.

The program has continued to be funded annually and in 2012, the department received a grant of \$411,357 and \$397,298 was used. In 2012, there were 50 farmers' markets, 101 roadside stands, 325 farmers and 17,997 low-income seniors participating in the program. This program helps seniors have access to fresh, locally grown produce; as a result, Louisiana farmers benefit from the increased sales. The Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs, parish Councils on Aging and Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans support this program.

WIC FARMERS' MARKET NUTRITION PROGRAM

In 2005, the department began a WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program in East Baton Rouge Parish on a pilot basis. The WIC FMNP is similar to the Senior FMNP, except that the client base is for those who qualify for WIC benefits and honey is not an eligible food. The program is jointly administered by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry and the Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of Public Health, WIC Program. The funds available for the pilot program totaled \$6,667. With low redemption rates in this parish, the pilot program was moved to Orleans Parish in 2008 in hopes of a better redemption rate.

In 2012, the WIC program expanded and was made available to Caddo, East Baton Rouge, Jefferson, Natchitoches, Orleans, Ouachita, and Plaquemines Parishes. Funds available for the WIC program totaled \$9,167 and \$7,249 was used.

LOUISIANA DAIRY INDUSTRY PROMOTION BOARD

Established by R.S. 3:557.4, the Board is responsible for the development and implementation of advertising, promotional and education programs designed to increase the consumption of milk and other dairy products. A department employee staffs the board serving as director of the Dairy Industry Promotion Board. The dairy board sponsors numerous special events and promotions throughout the state each year to enhance consumer demand and consumption of more milk and dairy products. In addition to the director conducting administrative duties, program responsibilities are also conducted by the director such as: promoting the nutritional value of dairy products; scheduling the Mobile Dairy Truck appearances at Louisiana schools, festivals or fairs; presenting nutrition education to kids; coordinating the Dairy Farmers of Louisiana booth at the annual Ag Expo (Monroe) and is responsible for numerous other special events, advertising projects and exhibits promoting milk. The director works with Ad Agency to develop and implement advertising campaigns. Website management and updating is also conducted by the director.

Louisiana dairy farmers provide funding to carry out the responsibilities of the board. Ten (10.0) cents per hundredweight is levied against all milk produced in Louisiana and is collected at the first point of sale from the producers milk marketing cooperative or from processors who buy directly from producers who are not members of a milk marketing cooperative. The Office of Management and Finance performs all accounting functions related to income and disbursements. The department retains three (3) percent of collections for administration of this program and forwards the balance to the board to carry out its responsibilities as defined by statute.

The Louisiana Dairy Industry Promotion Board is one of sixty-two (62) state or regional dairy product promotion, research or nutrition education programs qualified by USDA to receive funds from a fifteen (15) cent per hundredweight assessment on milk sales, pursuant to Section 1150.153 of the Federal Dairy Promotion and Research Order. The National Dairy Promotion and Research Program is funded by a mandatory assessment of fifteen (15) cents per hundredweight on all milk marketed commercially in the 48 contiguous states; however, if a state or regional program becomes qualified by USDA, the program can retain ten (10) cents of the fifteen (15) cent assessment. The Louisiana Dairy Industry Promotion Board is a qualified program and must receive annual certification as a qualified program to receive the ten (10) cents. To qualify each year, the board must demonstrate that it has not engaged in any activity other than promotion, research, and nutrition education designed to increase consumption of milk and other dairy products.

Performance Indicator	Actual 2011-12	Existing 2012-13	Continuation 2013-14	Recommended 2013-2014
Commodities Promotion and Research:				
Amount of sales under program	275,636	225,000	250,000	250,000
Percentage of senior participants that consumed more fresh fruits and vegetables because of the program.	80	80	80	80
No. of farmers' markets participating	39	30	40	40
No. of roadside stands participating (farmer owned)	92	85	90	90
No. of farmer participants in Farmers Markets and Farmer Owned Roadside Stands	250	325	300	300



OFFICE OF ANIMAL HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

JOHN WALTHER, ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER,
Director of Veterinary Health Division
and ESF-11 Coordinator
(225) 925-3962

Carl Bennett, Director of Livestock Brand Commission

Bobby Babin, Director of Egg Commission and
Director of the Meat Inspection, Poultry, Egg and
Food Quality Service Divisions

Diane Stacy, DVM, Assistant State Veterinarian and
Assistant Director of Veterinary Health Division

Mack B. Williams, Director of Food Distribution Division

Rebecca Riecke, Director of Catfish Promotion and Research Board

Paul A. Blair, Director of Strawberry Marketing Board

Stephen Minvielle, Director of Crawfish Promotion and Research Board

OFFICE OF ANIMAL HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

MISSION

The mission of the Office of Animal Health & Food Safety, through state and federal mandates, is to guard and protect the integrity of the livestock industry against animal diseases through diagnostic, preventative, eradication and other deterrent measures. Additionally, the office is responsible for protecting the food chain, public health and general welfare of the Louisiana citizenry by assuring that meat, seafood, poultry, eggs, fruits and vegetables and their products are properly identified, labeled, inspected and accurately graded. The Office of Animal Health & Food Safety shall also be responsible for the control of livestock theft and denying a market for stolen cattle and horses in Louisiana, all in accordance with applicable law. The Food Distribution Program administers the USDA Commodity Program (Sections 2 and 6 of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, The Emergency Food Assistance Act of 1983, and 7CFR 250, 251). The Office of Animal Health & Food Safety is presently responsible for coordinating the department's Emergency Management and Response before, during and after a disaster. LDAF administers ESF-4, Firefighting, and ESF-11, Agriculture. LDAF Emergency Management Division manages the business of these vital functions; a complex endeavor that requires planning, preparation and practice to fulfill the mission when the need arrives.

GOALS

The goal of this program is to maintain a safe and healthful food supply for the people of Louisiana, while simultaneously protecting and safeguarding the producers of these products. The program inspects and grades food products, controls livestock diseases and tracks ownership of livestock through a branding activity. The activities of this program are: Administrative, Federal/State Meat Program, Poultry and Egg Inspection, Food Quality Services, Livestock Disease Prevention, Livestock Theft Prevention, Emergency Management and Food Distribution Program.

PROGRAM ACTIVITY: LIVESTOCK BRAND COMMISSION - (R.S. 3:732) The Livestock Brand Commission is responsible for the protection of property through the investigation of farm related crimes with the main focus on the identification of livestock through registered brands and markings. Twelve employees across the state are commissioned law enforcement officers who protect lives and property, deter and investigate agricultural related crimes, bring perpetrators to justice and perform other related duties. They are responsible for performing the following tasks: monitoring and inspecting all livestock at video or public sales as well as any livestock either in shipping or to be shipped; identifying criminal activity involving farm related crimes and apprehending criminals; providing specialized assistance when a massive application of manpower is required during disaster, civil disturbance or terrorist situation; providing assistance to law enforcement agencies in investigating farm related crime; providing assistance to persons unable to help themselves, or are in danger or in need of other emergency services; and conducting various informational programs for the public in regards to livestock identification and farm related crimes.

PROGRAM ACTIVITY: FOOD QUALITY SERVICES (FRUITS AND VEGETABLES) - (R.S. 3:405) (Title 3, Chapter 5) The Food Quality Services (FQS) program provides unbiased third party (collaborator) inspections, state inspections, and shipping point inspections for fresh fruits and vegetables grown in Louisiana. This program inspects and certifies grade, quality and condition of fresh fruits, vegetables, peanuts and pecans at shipping ports and receiving markets in the state; and inspects and certifies fresh produce purchased by federal and state institutions. The FQS program has a cooperative agreement with the USDA Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Branch to provide Federal/State inspection services.

PROGRAM ACTIVITY: POULTRY AND EGGS - (R.S. 3:405; 3:410) (Title 3, Chapter 5) The Poultry & Egg Division is responsible for establishing grades for poultry and eggs sold in Louisiana. The Division is authorized through cooperative agreements with the USDA to establish and maintain grading services at authorized USDA poultry and egg plants; provide fee grading services at off-plant locations; and perform shell egg surveillance at all shell egg plants and hatcheries. The Poultry and Eggs Division is responsible for enforcing State laws, rules and regulations for egg and poultry production, packing and sales. The Louisiana Egg Commission is charged by the State Legislature with the duty of promoting eggs and egg products in Louisiana, issuing licenses to all producers, packers, processors, wholesalers, brokers, or any other entity except retailers. In addition, the Commission has the authority to hold hearings on any violation of the State Egg Marketing laws and revoke or suspend licenses if necessary. The LDAF Poultry and Egg Division is responsible for the regulation and enforcement of all rules and regulations pertaining to the Egg Commission. The Commission is composed of nine members appointed by the Commissioner of Agriculture and Forestry who serves as an ex-officio member. The Commissioner appoints someone from his staff to serve as Director of the Egg Commission and the Department provides staffing for the Commission. In return, the Commission provides \$30,000 per year to the Department to cover the cost of these services. The Egg Commission derives its funding from a \$0.02 per case assessment on all eggs sold in Louisiana, a \$100 per year license fee, and per diem and travel charges for audit work. The Commission generates an average of \$420,000 a year on fee collection from companies doing business in Louisiana.

PROGRAM ACTIVITY: VETERINARY HEALTH DIVISION (formerly known as LIVESTOCK SANITARY BOARD) - (R.S. 3:2091) The mission of the Office of Animal Health & Food Safety, Veterinary Health Division, is to protect livestock from infectious diseases through diagnostic, preventative, eradication and other measures. The Division is responsible for protecting the public health and general welfare of Louisiana citizens by ensuring the safety of the meat and poultry in the food chain. Furthermore, the Division is responsible for ensuring the safety of all animals during a large scale emergency or disaster, whether accidental or intentional.

Program activities include: 1) providing animal disease diagnostic capabilities using three laboratories; 2) performing regulatory disease surveillance, including monitoring movement of animals into and out of Louisiana; 3) ensuring that biologics are correctly approved, monitored and used; 4) monitoring the entrance and husbandry of alternative livestock; 5) providing assistance to the Governor's Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness (Acts

2006, No. 615); 6) protecting Louisiana animal agriculture by monitoring for foreign animal diseases; 7) developing a data base of agricultural related business and other animal related items that would aid the National Animal Identification System and its Premises Identification Program; 8) providing a resource to continue USDA cooperative agreements; 9) assist in the National Veterinary Accreditation Program; 10) perform additional work including issuing permits for movement, equine passports, handling orders from veterinarians, 4-H show health certificates and check-ins, approve and inspect any animals purchased by LA Prison Industries, Mycoplasma mastitis program, certify bonds and letters of credit for auction market, collect information on EVA vaccinated horses, inspect litter/poultry incinerators, inspect offal & inedible businesses and monthly inspections of rendering plants; 11) providing outreach to the State, United States and the world; 12) provide regulatory monitoring for the turtle industry; and, 13) provide resources for activities of Boards and Council.

PROGRAM ACTIVITY: EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT - LDAF has the responsibility as authorized by the Louisiana Emergency Operation Plan to administer two of the fifteen Emergency Support Functions. These functions are ESF-4, Firefighting, and ESF-11, Agriculture. LDAF Emergency Management Division manages the business of these vital functions. Emergency management is a complex endeavor that requires year round planning, preparation and practice to fulfill the mission when the need arrives. Full-time, year-round staffing is utilized by LDAF to meet the needs of its emergency response responsibilities.

PROGRAM ACTIVITY: MEAT INSPECTION - (R.S. 3:4201) Louisiana's Meat and Poultry Inspection Program is a cooperative state-federal program. Its mission is to provide consumers with safe, wholesome, properly labeled meat and poultry products. The Program is responsible for inspecting all meats of animals slaughtered and processed in Louisiana facilities; inspecting meat processing facilities for compliance with federal and state requirements; operating an accredited laboratory that analyzes meat and poultry products for economic and microbiological adulteration; reviewing and approving the labels of meat and meat products to assure that accurate product information is supplied to the consumer. This Program provides continuous inspection to 62 commercial slaughter and processing facilities, as well as periodic inspection of 24 custom slaughter and processing plants. Inspected slaughter establishments, inspected processors, custom slaughterers, custom processors and warehouses distributing meat and poultry products must be licensed by the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry. The Program is also made up of a compliance segment responsible for investigating violations of meat and poultry regulations such as the illegal slaughter, processing, and sale of uninspected meat products. State compliance officers conduct food safety surveillance reviews at stores, restaurants, and distribution warehouses to ensure meat products sold have been inspected, are being stored properly and have not been adulterated or contaminated after leaving the processing facility. These officers also investigate consumer complaints. Under the state-federal cooperative agreement, the Program must enforce requirements "at least equal to" those imposed under the Federal Meat Inspection Act and Poultry Products Inspection Act. FSIS provides up to 50% of the State's operating funds, as well as training and other assistance.

Grading & Certification: The Meat Inspection Division conducts a voluntary Grading and Certification Program for meat and meat products and fish and fishery products. This program assures that products purchased by institutions and schools meet the Institutional Meat

Purchasing Specifications and general requirements for Fish and Fishery Products. The Grading & Certification Program prevents a vendor from shipping a lower valued product than what the purchase order calls for, resulting in substantial savings for both state institutions and participating school systems. This Program is funded through a \$0.04/pound fee paid by participating vendors for the certification of their product.

PROGRAM ACTIVITY: FOOD DISTRIBUTION – The Food Distribution Program ensures the USDA commodities are distributed to eligible recipient agencies and that those agencies are reviewed as required. Further, the office ensures the safe storage and handling of the commodities until consumed. The Food Distribution Program is responsible for the ordering, warehousing, and distributing foods purchased by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for use in federally approved child nutrition programs and for food purchased for distribution to low income citizens and families. It also is responsible for ensuring that recipient agencies are operated in compliance with federal requirements (agreement, regulation and law) by monitoring receiving agencies (schools, summer feeding sponsors, food banks and their member agencies), resolving findings and reporting activities to the USDA which ensure that these foods are protected and are distributed only to those who are eligible to receive these benefits.

LIVESTOCK BRAND COMMISSION

OVERALL MISSION:

The Livestock Brand Commission is an enforcement agency in the Department of Agriculture and Forestry that specializes in the theft of animals, the illegal branding or marking of animals, the theft of any farm machinery, equipment, or any other farm-related crime.

OBJECTIVE: The Livestock Brand Commission strives to protect and safeguard Louisiana agriculture. It comprises six major areas: theft prevention, investigation, identification, Crimestoppers Program, public relations and brand registration.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:

Key Indicator 1 Percentage of Theft Cases Cleared

Key Indicator 2 Percentage of cases in which you were able to account for the property

STRATEGY 1.1 To provide theft prevention and investigative services to a 2.176 billion dollar agriculture industry which includes the following: cattle, equine, hogs, emu, ostrich, turtle, sheep, exotic, chemicals, farm machinery and equipment.

STRATEGY 1.2 To provide annual educational enforcement training to all of our employees.

Customers:

Farmers

Cattlemen

Horsemen

Limiting Factors:

Funding

Manpower

1. THE LIVESTOCK BRAND COMMISSION

The Livestock Brand Commission is a law enforcement agency with (9) employees:

(1) Director; (7) Commissioned Livestock Brand Inspectors and (1) State Brand Recorder. The office consists of six (6) major components:

- 1) Theft Prevention
- 2) Investigation
- 3) Identification
- 4) Crimestoppers Program
- 5) Public Relations
- 6) Brand Registration

INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES

The Livestock Brand Commission provides theft prevention and investigative services to a 2.176 billion dollar agriculture industry which includes the following: cattle, equine, hogs, emu ostrich, turtle, sheep, exotic, chemicals, farm machinery and equipment. The Livestock Brand Commission conducts all investigations, both interdepartmental and otherwise, as directed by the Commissioner.

CRIME PREVENTION

Livestock Brand Commission officers inspect and individually identify each head of livestock sold in public markets in the State of Louisiana including video sales. Descriptions, hot iron, cold brands and electronic identification, along with serial numbers, are all valid identification tools. Officer patrol service is also included in this category during high crime periods. Livestock Brand Commission officers patrol 4H and FFA livestock shows to prevent cheating among contestants. Livestock Brand Commission officers also make public appearances with assorted agricultural groups with tips on how to better protect their livestock and property from theft.

SADDLE IDENTIFICATION PROGRAM

Saddle theft is one of the most popular agriculture items for thieves to prey on. The main reason for thieves to steal saddles is that they do not have identifiable marks or serial numbers. Therefore, it is the intention of the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Livestock Brand Commission, to provide all saddle owners in the State of Louisiana the opportunity to have their saddles registered and identified by using a “microchip” implant.

CRIMESTOPPERS PROGRAM

The Livestock Brand Commission Crimestoppers Program is another tool used to assist law enforcement agencies in detecting and combating agricultural crime and is sponsored by the Louisiana Cattlemen’s Association and the Louisiana Farm Bureau. The program is made public through posters and the media.

PUBLIC RELATIONS PROGRAM

This is the most important aspect of the total program for the following reasons: the industry that we serve must know what we do, how we do it, why we provide these services, and that the services we provide are cost effective to the taxpayers. This is accomplished by attending public meetings---Cattlemen, Farm Bureau, law enforcement associations, fairs and festivals.

STATE BRAND RECORDING

In accordance with Louisiana Revised Statutes (RS 3:736-741) the Livestock Brand Commission maintains a file of all brand or mark for cattle, horses, mules, sheep, hogs, dogs, and other animals as determined by the commission for the state of Louisiana. The Livestock Brand Commission also publishes a list of all recorded brands and marks in a book form.

FOOD QUALITY SERVICES DIVISION

OVERALL MISSION

The mission of the Food Quality Services (formerly Fruits and Vegetables Division) is to provide unbiased third party inspection (collaborator) at terminal markets, to provide shipping point inspections when needed, and to provide inspections for state institutions and other state and parish entities that voluntarily come under the Fruit and Vegetable Inspection Program. Our personnel are licensed by the USDA in the following capacities:

- 2 Collaborators
- 1 Collaborator (Limited License continuing to train)
- 5 State Licenses for school inspections cross-trained from Poultry and Eggs

OBJECTIVE: Through the Office of Animal Health and Food Safety, to continue to provide unbiased third party inspection (collaborator) at terminal markets, inspections for state institutions and other state and parish entities that come under the fruit and vegetables.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:

Key Indicator 1 Percent of fruit & vegetables inspected and passed

Strategy 2.1 Maintain cooperative agreements with USDA by way of collaborator and shipping point inspections.

Strategy 2.2 Continue all State programs that are now in existence through school lunch and state institution inspections of fruits and vegetables.

Strategy 2.3 Enforcement of all rules and regulations governing marketing of fresh fruits and vegetables.

Strategy 2.4 Implementation of new citrus rules and regulations.

PROGRAM IMPACT

Number of Food Quality Inspectors	5
Number of inspections performed	892
Pounds of product inspected	6,382,332
Revenue generated	\$78,915.12

POULTRY AND EGG DIVISION

OVERALL MISSION

The overall mission of the Poultry and Egg Division is to protect the consumer and ensure that the poultry, egg and poultry and egg products are wholesome and are of the quantity and quality represented on the label. The division also promotes consumer use of poultry and eggs through the Louisiana Egg Commission.

OBJECTIVES

Through the Office of Animal Health and Food Safety, to continue to protect the consumer and ensure that the poultry, egg and the poultry and egg products are wholesome and of the quality represented on the label.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:

Key Indicator 1 Percent of poultry passed

Key Indicator 2 Percent of eggs and egg product inspected and passed

Strategy 3.1 Maintain cooperative agreements with USDA.

Strategy 3.2 Provide qualified, licensed graders for all USDA poultry & egg facilities in Louisiana.

Strategy 3.3 Provide fee grading service for non-USDA poultry & egg facilities.

Strategy 3.4 Provide graders to perform federal egg surveillance for Louisiana egg plants and hatcheries.

Strategy 3.5 Perform all USDA destination inspections and reviews for poultry and eggs.

Strategy 3.6 Continue all state programs that are now in existence.

Strategy 3.7 Enforce the State Egg Marketing Law.

PROGRAM IMPACT

Number of poultry & egg inspectors	10
Number of poultry inspections performed (fee)	146
Number of pounds inspected	5,181,119
Number of egg inspection performed	3,836
Number of dozens inspected	2,372,890
Revenue generated	\$378,634.20

LOUISIANA EGG COMMISSION

The commission consists of nine members appointed by the Commissioner and confirmed by the Senate. Two members are active egg producers. Four members are active distributors. Two members have knowledge of the egg industry. One member is appointed from the public at large. The Commissioner, or his designee, serves as ex-officio and has all rights and responsibilities of appointed members. The Commissioner, or his designee, shall be counted for purposes of constituting a quorum. The Commissioner appoints someone from his staff to serve as Director of the Egg Commission and the Department provides staffing for the Commission. The Commission gives the Department \$30,000.00 annually to help offset the cost of these services.

The Egg Commission derives its funding from a \$.02/30 dozen case assessment on all eggs produced and processed in Louisiana and all eggs produced elsewhere and distributed in Louisiana. Any entity engaged in producing, packing, processing, and distributing eggs for retail must have a license. The funds are collected by the Commissioner of Agriculture and Forestry. The funds derived from the assessments are deposited into the State Treasury, in a special fund to the credit of the Louisiana Egg Commission. All licensees can be audited annually and must be audited at least every two years. Licensees will pay mileage and per diem.

The purpose of the Louisiana Egg Commission is to educate the consumers of Louisiana on the good nutritional value of the egg to approve and issue licenses for all entities engaged in egg production and wholesales, to hold hearings, and if necessary, suspend or revoke licenses of flagrant violators.

The Egg Commission promotes eggs in many ways. Some of the on-going annual functions are:

- Working closely with the American Egg Board on all state activities.
- Co-sponsoring statewide egg cookery contest with the Louisiana State University Cooperative Extension Service.
- Co-sponsoring with the Louisiana Poultry Federation the egg breakfasts for the House and Senate.
- Participate in the following trade shows annually:
 - a. State Fair in Shreveport---a booth and an omelet brunch
 - b. Monroe Ag Exposition
 - c. Louisiana School Food Service annual meeting
 - d. Louisiana Dietary Association
 - e. Louisiana Restaurant Association
 - f. Christmas in the Country in St. Francisville
 - g. Brunch for Poultry Graduates and their families at LSU
- Omelets for any special functions with approval of the Commission
 - a. In store cooking demonstrations
 - b. Radio promotions

The Egg Commission has two large radio promotions, two weeks before Easter and two weeks before Christmas. Other promotions are done whenever there is an opportunity and the

Commission thinks the exposure justifies the cost. In addition to the spots on local radio, the Commission works with selected stations for promotional give-aways.

The Commission purchases most of the literature and promotional gifts through the American Egg Board. Most of the radio promotions are through the Louisiana Network News as the Commission feels that LNN provides the most coverage for the dollar.

The Egg Commission meets quarterly, the third Wednesday of the first month in the quarter. Robert Yarborough, CEO of Manda Fine Meats, is the Chairman of the Louisiana Egg Commission.

VETERINARY HEALTH DIVISION

OVERALL MISSION: The Veterinary Health Division is responsible for protecting Louisiana livestock from infectious diseases by administering state and federal disease surveillance programs that include disease reporting, monitoring, investigation, diagnostics, containment, and eradication.

Emergency Management: LDAF has the responsibility as authorized by the Louisiana Emergency Operation Plan to administer two of the fifteen Emergency Support Functions. These functions are ESF-4, Firefighting, and ESF-11, Agriculture. LDAF Emergency Management Division manages the business of these vital functions. Emergency management is a complex endeavor that requires planning, preparation and practice to fulfill the mission when the need arrives. Full-time, year-round staffing is utilized by LDAF to meet the needs of its emergency response responsibilities.

OBJECTIVES: To continue the prevention, control, monitoring and eradication of endemic, zoonotic, foreign, and emerging animal diseases in livestock, poultry, farm raised cervids (deer, elk, and antelope), aquatics, and turtles. Document the number of infectious disease cases that that would restrict movement of animals in commerce.

Emergency Management: LDAF is prepared to respond to incidents that threaten agriculture, the supply of safe food, natural disasters, and public health emergencies. To maintain our state of readiness, respond to, recover from, and mitigate the effects of disasters, LDAF requires full time staffing to carry out our missions. Emergency response to natural or manmade disasters is critical to the safety and economic stability of Louisiana.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:

Key Indicator 1 Number of livestock disease cases that would restrict movement of animals in commerce including quarantines and restricted movement permits.

Key Indicator 2 Percentage of request for aid that was provided to livestock and companion animals and their owners during declared or non-declared emergencies per the LDAF ESF-11 emergency plan.

Strategy 4.1 Monitor testing reports from official diagnostic labs to identify positive tests for reportable diseases.

Strategy 4.2 Enter test reports into spreadsheets and surveillance databases.

Strategy 4.3 Monitor disease reports from other state/federal agencies, private veterinarians, and producers regarding livestock and poultry diseases.

Strategy 4.4 Investigate suspicious disease reports from other state/federal agencies, private veterinarians, and producers regarding livestock and poultry diseases.

Strategy 4.5 Issue quarantine notices to stop livestock or poultry movement if infectious disease is suspected.

Strategy 4.6 Issue form VS-127 to restrict movement of livestock or poultry if infectious disease has been confirmed.

Performance indicators:

- Number of positive and negative test results entered on spreadsheets
- Monthly reports submitted to surveillance databases.
- Foreign animal disease cases and federal/state program disease cases entered into the Emergency Management Response System (EMRS).
- Number of investigative disease reports filed with office.
- Number of quarantine notices issued and filed with office.
- Number of VS-127 notices issued and filed with office.

VETERINARY HEALTH DIVISION

The Division has a staff of 6 administrative personnel and 19 lab and field personnel who work with other governmental agencies, private veterinarians, producers, industry and academia to ensure the safety of the meat and poultry that enter the food chain. Office personnel maintain paper and electronic records of animal health certificates and livestock testing information that attest to the health of animals within the state, leaving the state, and entering the state. Field personnel conduct inspections of production and processing sites, investigate reportable diseases, and monitor livestock sold at auction markets for signs of disease. Livestock identification and premises information is collected and maintained to trace an animal's movement or to stop animal movement in the face of a disease outbreak. The Poultry Diagnostic Lab works closely with commercial and backyard flock owners in testing birds that may be sold locally, nationally, or internationally or that may be entered into a local 4-H show. The division provides outreach to producers and veterinarians at local and regional meetings and to veterinary students through federal accreditation and loan repayment programs. The division coordinates activities and meetings for the Board of Animal Health and the Louisiana Aquatic Chelonian Research and Promotion Board.

Federal/State Programs include:

1. Animal Disease Traceability
2. Cattle Health
3. Swine Health
4. Avian Health
5. Equine, Cervid, Small Ruminant
6. Zoonotic Disease/Foreign Animal Disease
7. Alternative Livestock
8. Trichomoniasis

9. Equine Infectious Anemia
10. Reportable Diseases--Equine Encephalitis
11. Farm-Raised Turtles
12. Livestock permitting-health certificates and passports
13. Brucellosis Calf-Hood Vaccinations
14. National Veterinary Accreditation
15. Veterinary Loan Repayment
16. Animal Care Standards
17. Auction Market/livestock buyer Registration
18. 4-H Show livestock inspections
19. Biological Approvals
20. Rendering Plant Inspections
21. Prison Enterprise Inspections
22. Mycoplasma Mastitis
23. Certified/Accredited Herds
24. Supplies for Accredited Veterinarians

MEAT AND POULTRY INSPECTION PROGRAM

OVERALL MISSION: The mission of the Louisiana Meat and Poultry Inspection Program is to provide the consumer with a wholesome and safe meat supply.

OBJECTIVES: Program objectives are to ensure consumer receives only safe, wholesome and unadulterated meat and meat products, and that only properly labeled meat products (reflecting the actual ingredients) are provided to the consumer.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:

Key Indicator 1 Percent of meat & poultry inspected and passed

Key Indicator 2 Percent of noncompliant laboratory samples

Key Indicator 3 Number of meat & poultry product recalls for state facilities

Strategy 5.1 Inspect all animals slaughtered and/or processed in state plants.

Strategy 5.2 Assure that custom facilities which slaughter and/or process individual's animals are maintained in a sanitary manner.

Strategy 5.3 Enforce rules and regulations through use of a compliance program.

Strategy 5.4 Maintain laboratory testing for food borne pathogens, i.e., listeria, salmonella, E. coli 0157:H7.

Strategy 5.5 Continue cross-utilization cooperative agreement with USDA by staffing federal plants with state personnel.

Strategy 5.6 Continue testing of meat products through Chemistry Program to protect consumers from economic fraud.

Strategy 5.7 Continue in plant residue testing for show animals.

Strategy 5.8 Continue training for both industry and inspection under (HACCP).

Strategy 5.9 Continue to provide meaningful information for inspection personnel and industry on latest inspection innovations.

Strategy 5.10 Transition from Performance Based Inspection System (PBIS) to Public Health Inspection System (PHIS).

MEAT INSPECTION PROGRAM IMPACT

In accordance with Louisiana Revised Statutes (RS 3:4201 – 4233) this program continues to ensure that consumers receive only safe, wholesome, unadulterated meat and poultry products that are properly labeled. The Meat and Poultry Inspection Program is a cooperative state-federal program, receiving 50% of its funding from USDA. The program is responsible for inspecting all meats of animals slaughtered and processed in Louisiana facilities; inspecting and approving premises of meat facilities according to federal and state requirements; operating a federal accredited laboratory for analyses of meat samples; reviewing and approving all labels of meat and meat products to assure that accurate product information is supplied to the consumer; and investigating violations of meat and poultry regulations, such as illegal slaughter, processing, and sale of uninspected meat products. The Program also provides Grading and Certification services for meat, poultry, and fish products. This service assures that products purchased by institutions and schools meet specifications for quality by preventing vendors from shipping a lower valued product.

Amount of federal dollars available, FY 2012	\$1,787,607
Number of state inspected slaughter & processing facilities	78
Number of LDAF meat inspection program employees	41
Number of slaughtered livestock inspected	21,069
Pounds of meat & poultry processed and inspected	29,041,921
Number of laboratory samples monitored	1,171
Number of private sector employees (approximate)	750
Annual gross sales for state inspected plants	\$ 103,000,000

State inspection program staff's four meat plants for USDA, in which a cross-utilization agreement is signed where the state is reimbursed per hour for each inspection hour provided.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION DIVISION

OBJECTIVE: To maintain the administrative cost of the Food Distribution Program at no more than five percent of the value of commodities distributed.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:

Key Indicator 1 Number of Compliance audits

Strategy 6.1 Maintain less than a six month supply of commodities on-hand at any time during the school year.

Strategy 6.2 Upgrade of Food Distribution computer system completed by July 2013.

Strategy 6.3 Continue expansion of diversion of commodities options to approved processors as requested by School Food Authorities.

Strategy 6.4 Process claims for losses of commodities within 30 days of receipt.

Strategy 6.5 Process claims for reimbursement from food banks within 30 days of receipt.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION DIVISION

The Food Distribution division is responsible for administering the USDA donated food commodity program in Louisiana. A staff of 18 employees is utilized to order, warehouse and distribute these donated foods to approximately 700 recipient agencies throughout the state, and to monitor these recipient agencies to ensure compliance with all State and Federal policies and laws. Program categories include:

1. National School Lunch and Breakfast Program
2. State Corrections Facilities
3. Emergency Food Assistance Program
4. Summer Feeding Program
5. Disaster Assistance Program

Commodities are ordered from USDA based upon the needs of recipient agencies and the availability of items. Products are received at contract and state-operated warehouses. Strict inventory and quality control are maintained at these warehouses under the supervision of the Food Distribution Division.

Commodities are distributed to recipient agencies on a regular basis. As an added service, the division provides delivery to all parish and diocese school food authorities who are unable to pick up the commodities.

Monitoring is accomplished through the use of field staff who visit recipient agencies on a regular basis. These field audits ensure that all policies are understood, that commodities are stored and utilized in the most effective manner, that all civil rights requirements are met, and that all recipients of commodity assistance are eligible to receive benefits.

The Food Distribution division also administers the USDA Donated Food Processing Program. The program allows recipient agencies to contract with food processors in order to convert USDA commodities into finished products at low cost. This is not only advantageous to the recipient agency, but also is a source of revenue for processing firms.

Value of commodities distributed annually ranges from \$18-35 million, depending on USDA purchases.

OFFICE OF ANIMAL HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

During the 2009 Legislative Session, the Office of Marketing was dissolved and the following boards were moved to the Office of Animal Health and Food Safety.

LOUISIANA CATFISH PROMOTION & RESEARCH BOARD

Established in R.S. 3:558.1-558.13 for the purpose of providing a voluntary method of raising revenues to be used for the purposes of developing markets for Louisiana catfish and for funding research and educational activities for the Louisiana catfish industry. When assessments are approved by a simple majority of the catfish farmers voting in a referendum, the department will collect assessments on all catfish feed sold in Louisiana to catfish farmers at the rate of \$2.00 per ton. The department will retain 3% of the assessment collected for administrative costs and transfer the balance to the board.

Division staff provides administrative support to the board and implements all promotion projects and activities approved by the board. When assessments are levied or imposed, staff will also provide financial reports to the board detailing all assessments collected, refunds to farmers and funds transferred to the board to cover their administrative costs and to fund promotion and research projects.

LOUISIANA STRAWBERRY MARKETING BOARD

Established in R.S. 3:471-478, now listed as R.S. 3:730.1-730.8, The Louisiana Strawberry Marketing Board was created to promote the general well-being of the strawberry industry of the state of Louisiana by promoting increased production and quality in Louisiana strawberries through marketing and research; by expanding the market for Louisiana strawberries through promotion and marketing; by increasing the consumption of strawberries in Louisiana through advertising, promotion and marketing; by providing producers, distributors, retailers and consumers with educational information as to the nutritional and health value of strawberries, and by performing any other act deemed advisable in promoting this industry and the general welfare of the people of this state.

The department collects an assessment that is levied on all strawberries produced in Louisiana or produced elsewhere and distributed in Louisiana. For all strawberries sold by volume or dry measure, this assessment is levied on each pint, or equivalent, of strawberries in the amount of \$.00165 for each pint. For all strawberries sold by weight, this assessment is levied on each pound of strawberries in the amount of \$.00185 per pound. Assessments are remitted to the department by dealers and supplies of containers used for Louisiana produced strawberries and by retailers for strawberries produced elsewhere and sold in Louisiana.

The board, working with the department, implements all promotional campaigns for advertising, publicizing, projects, and activities for promoting the increased consumption of Louisiana strawberries. The department also provides financial reports to the board detailing all assessments collected and funds transferred to the board to cover administrative costs and to fund promotional endeavors.

LOUISIANA CRAWFISH PROMOTION AND RESEARCH BOARD

Established in R.S. 3:556.1-556.13 for the purpose of providing a voluntary method of raising revenues to be used to develop markets for Louisiana crawfish and for funding research which will increase production of Louisiana crawfish. The department collects assessments on all crawfish bags sold in Louisiana to crawfish farmers and harvesters at the rate of 2.0 cents per bag and on all artificial bait sold in Louisiana at the rate of 1/4 cent per pound (\$5/ton). The assessments are paid by crawfish farmers and harvesters at the first point of sale and remitted to the department on a quarterly basis by the manufacturer or distributor. Each farmer or harvester who purchases bags or artificial bait in Louisiana may obtain a refund of the assessments by submitting a written request within fifteen days after the end of the quarter in which the bait or bags were purchased. Copies of sales receipts or invoices showing the amount of bait or bags purchased must accompany the request. The department retains 3% of the assessment collected for administrative costs and transfers the balance to the board.

Department staff provides financial reports to the board detailing all assessments collected, refunds to farmers and harvesters and funds transferred to the board to cover their administrative costs and to fund promotion and research projects.



OFFICE OF FORESTRY

WADE DUBEA, STATE FORESTER AND ASSISTANT
COMMISSIONER
(225)925-4500

Epney Brasher, Associate State Forester

Don Smith, Jr., Branch Chief (Protection, Management & I&E)

Randy Rentz, Reforestation Chief

OFFICE OF FORESTRY

MISSION: The mission of the Office of Forestry is to protect, conserve, and replenish the state's forest resources.

GOAL: The goal of the program is to ensure the sustained high level of production of wood fiber while enhancing the recreational, wildlife habitat, watershed protection, and air quality values of forestlands. Protection and management of these valuable forestlands is necessary for future generations. Trees are Louisiana's number one crop and forestry is a major contributor to Louisiana's economy. Approximately 20,000 employees work in forestry-related jobs. In 2011, Louisiana landowners received over \$379.9 million for forest products sold and removed from their lands. Severance tax receipts amounted to over \$12.1 million, 75% of which was returned to the parish from which the timber was severed and 25% of which went into the state general fund. To carry out this mission, the Forestry Program conducts an intensive fire detection effort for the 18,931,000 acres under protection. The Office operates six detection aircraft in the northern half of the state and operates six aircraft and maintains forty fire towers in the southern half of the state. As aerial detection effectiveness increases, the number of active fire towers will continue to decline. Forestry investigates arson, timber theft and other forestry-related crimes. The Forestry Program also conducts a surveillance program for Southern Pine Beetle infestation and other invasive species such as Emerald Ash Borer, Gypsy Moth and Cogon Grass. The Forestry Program provides technical assistance for private forestland owners to encourage use of sound forestry practices. The forest tree seedling nurseries and seed orchard provide private forestland owners a reliable source of quality tree seedlings. The Program also provides Urban Forestry expertise to Louisiana cities and communities. And the agency uses conservation education to further understanding and protection of the state's forest resources.

OBJECTIVE 1 **Maintain a 13 acre average fire size and minimize structure & property loss relating to wildfire.**

STRATEGY 1.1 Update & maintain the Communications network that is vital to an efficient response to wildfires.

STRATEGY 1.2 By working with the State Fire Marshal, Emergency Management agencies, and Environmental Protection officials, establish a procedure for issuing burn bans, whether partial or statewide, that will limit the potential hazard to the citizens and the environment.

STRATEGY 1.3 Analyze and review the latest equipment technology & detection/suppression methods to determine the most effective use of the limited resources and manpower of this agency and the State's wildfire community.

STRATEGY 1.4 Reactivate fire training program, including computerized fire simulator.

Performance Indicators:

- Number of wildfires
- Average fire size in acres
- Protected area burned (Land area burned compared to total land acreage protected by the agency)
- Residences protected (those protected from wildfires that were controlled by the agency's actions)
- Structures protected (Non-residential structures protected from wildfires that were controlled by the actions of the agency)

Customers

- All forest landowners in Louisiana
- Any citizens with property adjacent to forest land
- Businesses and citizens with economic ties to forest resources

Limiting Factors

- Weather
- Fire occurrence (man-made ignition sources like arson and debris burning)
- Cooperation from others in the fire service
- Forest types, accessibility, terrain, etc.

OBJECTIVE 2 **Assist Rural Fire Departments and Cooperators by providing equipment, information, & training that is essential to their ability to protect the public from the threat of fire, both structural and wildland.**

STRATEGY 2.1: Establish fire protection procedures, both dispatch and suppression, between LDAF and local entities having fire responsibilities such as 911 dispatchers & Rural Fire Departments.

STRATEGY 2.2 Provide direct support in organizing, training, and equipping eligible Rural Fire Departments with cost-share assistance through the Rural Community Fire Protection Program.

STRATEGY 2.3 Administer the Federal Excess Property Program which allows this agency to look for and acquire useable excess property at military bases and government holding areas throughout the South. This acquired property can be loaned to Fire Departments across the state for use in fire suppression activities.

STRATEGY 2.4 Develop a training program dealing with wildland fire suppression techniques that can be offered to Rural Fire Departments.

Performance Indicators:

- Dollar value of FEPP property acquired
- Number of VFD assisted through RCFP program

Customers

- Rural volunteer fire departments

Limiting Factors

- Availability of federal property through FEPP, competition from other users.
- Availability of federal funding through RCFP program
- Coordination success with other VFD training entities (LSU Firemen Training)

OBJECTIVE 3: **Assure the continued safety of agency employees and the citizens we assist.**

STRATEGY 3.1 Provide all fire & field personnel with personal protective equipment (PPE) such as hard hats, gloves, safety glasses, fire retardant coveralls, etc.

STRATEGY 3.2 Develop guidelines to assure compliance with all Departmental policy dealing with safety issues.

STRATEGY 3.3 Stress the use and importance of PPEs and other safety issues during meetings with personnel.

STRATEGY 3.4 Monitor innovations in safety equipment & techniques to determine the usefulness to the agency and its employees and apply them as applicable.

Performance Indicators:

- Agency safety records

Customers

- Agency employees
- Cooperating fire control personnel

Limiting Factors

- Budget
- Availability of appropriate equipment for southern firefighting applications
- Technology
- Research

OBJECTIVE 4 **Increase private, nonindustrial forest land productivity through the promotion of sound forest management practices by providing technical assistance.**

STRATEGY 4.1 Increase acres planted in trees on small forest landowners' acres by 10 percent each year.

Increase the number of acres prescribe burned.

Provide financial assistance to eligible landowners for establishing and improving tree crops by utilizing the Forestry Productivity and other cost-share programs.

STRATEGY 4.2 Increase the number of forest management plans through actively engaging and educating forest landowners of the benefit.

Through personal, individual contacts, place under improved forest practices, the small timber tracts and farm woodlots in the state.

STRATEGY 4.3 Maintain or increase the percentage of managed forests utilizing Forestry Best Management Practices (BMPs)
Participate in training programs for landowners, managers and timber harvesters in the use of forestry BMPs.
Conduct surveys on implementation and effective monitoring of forestry BMPs.
Assist with updating the BMP manual.

Performance Indicators:

- Number of acres of tree planting, small owners
- Number of acres of prescribed burning, small owners
- Number of management plans written
- Implementation rate of Forestry Best Management Practices

Customers

- Forest landowners throughout Louisiana
- Forestry industry including timber harvesting businesses
- Support industries to forest industry
- All citizens who utilize our forest and forest-related resources

Limiting Factors

- Landowners willing to actively manage forestland
- Funding for cost-share assistance
- Seedling availability
- Timber prices
- Technology
- Environmental constraints
- Industry support
- Availability of State General Funds in the Office of Forestry budget.

OBJECTIVE 5 **NURSERY PRODUCTION: Produce a crop of quality seedlings to meet 85% of current demand by Private Nonindustrial Forest Landowners PNIF.**

STRATEGY 5.1 Plant and grow a crop of quality seedlings.

Utilize the State seedling nurseries as efficient farms to grow 20+ million seedlings for use by Louisiana forest landowners.

Harvest, package, and ship seedlings to all cooperators, utilizing manpower and equipment available in such a manner as to ensure quality of the product.

Performance Indicators:

- Percentage of pine seedling demands met, small owners
- Percentage of hardwood seedling demands met, small owners

Customers

- Private non-industrial forestland owners
- Contract Cooperators
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- La. Dept. of Wildlife & Fisheries
- U.S. Forest Service

Limiting Factors

- NIF Demand for the year
- Weather
- Contractor Demand
- Seed Availability
- Labor Availability
- Funding

OBJECTIVE 6 **The Forestry Program will continue to promote public awareness of the value of trees and forestry, including urban forests through Conservation Education Programs. Project Learning Tree (PLT), a popular program among school teachers in Louisiana, is being enhanced with a special Louisiana Forestry component.**

STRATEGY 6.1 Administer the Urban & Community Forestry grant program which provides funds to towns and communities for urban forestry improvements and planning. Provide new grant dollars as available and monitor activity under existing grants.

STRATEGY 6.2 The agency will provide technical urban forestry assistance to communities, public agencies, non-profit organizations, schools and the

- general public. We will continue to provide technical assistance to all entities who request same. We will provide technical assistance of some in over 100 communities annually.
- STRATEGY 6.3** Urban forestry staff will participate in education and training events concerning urban forestry, assisting all entities who request it.
- STRATEGY 6.4** Agency will coordinate with the Louisiana Urban Forestry Council.
- STRATEGY 6.5** Agency will continue to lead Conservation Education programs in Louisiana and train educators in environmental education so that the information will be passed on to our school children in an accurate, consistent manner.
- STRATEGY 6.6** Promote fire-safe homes and communities through the implementation of the Firewise Communities USA program.

Performance Indicators:

- Number of urban forestry assists
- Number of media activities
- Number of Conservation Education workshops
- Number of Educators trained
- Number of talks to adult and youth groups
- Number of communities assisted with Firewise Communities USA program

Customers

- Communities
- Public agencies
- Non-profit organizations
- Schools
- Adult and youth groups
- General population

Limiting Factors

- Local community capacity to develop and sustain urban forestry and Firewise programs
- Sponsors, partners, financial supporters
- Budgets of participating entities
- Technology
- Number of trained facilitators
- Support from school boards and administrators

- OBJECTIVE 7** Provide effective law enforcement to reduce loss of timber resources to landowners of this state.

STRATEGY 7.1

Develop civil rules and/or regulations requiring certain information be collected and maintained by timber receiving facilities to aid in the investigations of timber theft complaints. Keep all complainants informed and updated on the progress of their complaint.

Continue to educate District Attorneys, Judges and other enforcement organizations on the seriousness of timber theft so that they may understand the problem and recognize the fine line between a criminal offense and a civil complaint.

Work with border states to develop and enact similar legislation to better document the movement of timber resources between our states.

STRATEGY 7.2 Increase landowner awareness of the threat of loss of their timber resources by fire and theft.

STRATEGY 7.3 Expand our media efforts with regard to public awareness.

Increase prevention efforts targeted at specific areas.

Performance Indicators:

- Number of forestry investigations

Customers

- All forest landowners
- Citizens with real estate or other property adjacent to forest lands
- Forest industry and related suppliers and vendors

Limiting Factors

- Personnel
- Documentation requirements on timber movement
- Support from other law enforcement entities
- Public awareness and willingness to act



OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT & FINANCE

DANE K. MORGAN, ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER
(225) 952-8142

Judy Fletcher, Deputy Undersecretary / Director – Fiscal Services

Rene' Simon, Director – LA Ag Finance Authority

Melissa Sylvia, Director – Human Resources

Wilfred (Billy) Hebert, Director – Property Control

Earl Thornton, Director – Information Technology Services

Pete Rudesill, Director – Fleet and Facility Maintenance

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND FINANCE STRATEGIC PLAN

MISSION

The Office of Management and Finance's mission is to provide timely and cost effective administration of accounting and budget controls, procurement and contract management, data processing, management and program analysis, personnel management, and grants management to ensure compliance with state and federal laws and to ensure that the department's offices have the resources to accomplish their program missions.

GOAL:

To comply with all federal and state laws, rules and regulations, and policies and procedures in regard to fiscal management, contracts and grants, purchasing and property control, and information technology. Specifically, this includes compliance with generally accepted accounting principles.

To streamline and coordinate Department functions and services to become an exemplary department in the areas of service delivery, cost efficiency and internal operations.

To increase the public visibility of the department.

Objective 1

Enhance the ability of each office within the department to meet its goals through information systems management and use of technology.

Preserve and protect state resources allocated to the department by maintaining effective property control, auditing, and fiscal management practices.

Continually evaluate policy, procedure and programs to ensure maintenance and development of best possible management practices.

Continue to provide a safe and healthful environment for employees through regular inspections, maintenance, and up-grading of facilities and equipment.

Respond in a timely and satisfactory manner to all requests from the Commissioner and the various boards and commissions for non-routine services.

- Strategy 1.1 Monitor budget and advise various offices of budget status.
- Strategy 1.2 Ensure that 100% of the checks received by Accounts Receivable are deposited within the required time frame.
- Strategy 1.3 Make training continually available to all users to further educate them in the computer systems that they are working on and have available to them.
- Strategy 1.4 Continue an effective central receiving unit, following policies, procedures and regulations. Implementation of a computer program to track deliveries/receipts.

- Strategy 1.5 Adequately respond to all requests for non-routine audit and accounting services.
- Strategy 1.6 Created an internal auditor position to oversee the offices within the department.

Accountability (Performance Indicators)

- * Number of repeat audit findings
- * Percent of checks received/deposited within required time frame
- * Percent of technical support provided to meet internal customer requirements
- * Percent of helpdesk calls resolved



OFFICE OF SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION

BRADLEY E. SPICER, ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER
(225) 922-1269

Joey Breaux, Director – Soil & Water Conservation District Programs

OFFICE OF SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION STRATEGIC PLAN

The Office of Soil & Water Conservation is charged by the State legislature with the conservation and protection of the state's soil and water resources "as necessary to protect and promote the health, safety and general welfare of its people". The OSWC is authorized to establish conservation programs for the purpose of working with landowners and other governmental entities in planning and implementing soil and water conservation and protective measures on the land. Many of the Office's activities are carried out in partnerships with 44 Soil & Water Conservation Districts, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, USEPA, LDEQ, the LA Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority, and others. The Office of Soil & Water Conservation provides technical and financial assistance to the Conservation Districts through the State Soil & Water Conservation Commission.

VISION: "A Productive Louisiana Agriculture in Harmony With a Quality Environment"

MISSION: The mismanagement of agriculture processes and soil and water resources results in loss of soil productivity, degradation of water quality and wetlands, and increased flooding. The protection of these basic resources are necessary to protect the health, safety, and general welfare of our people. The mission of the Office of Soil and Water Conservation (OSWC) is to sustain and conserve water quality and soil stability on croplands, woodlands, grasslands, wetlands, and waterways of Louisiana. This is accomplished by providing financial assistance, administrative support, centralized direction and coordination to Louisiana's 44 Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) which provide conservation planning services to landowners and managers, and by serving as the official state cooperating agency with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) as required for federal conservation program benefits. Through this unique federal-state-local partnership, agricultural water quality and soil loss problems will be proactively addressed while considering private landowner needs and objectives.

PHILOSOPHY: Louisiana agriculture should be perceived by the public as environmentally compatible with the quality of our soil, water, air, plants, and animals and a benign component of our state's bountiful natural resources and alluring landscape. This productive landscape, most of which is privately owned, must continue to be properly managed to maintain the subtle balance and compatibility between agriculture and the environment. By developing and implementing economically feasible, voluntary natural resource management programs, traditional land uses and agricultural activities will continue in an environmentally sound manner.

GOAL:

To achieve a productive balance between Louisiana agriculture processes and a healthy environment, wherein soil loss is reduced to within tolerable limits, water quality impairments,

due to agriculture processes, are significantly reduced, and the quality of the state's wildlife habitat, wetlands, and other natural areas are enhanced.

OBJECTIVE I. (SOIL EROSION CONTROL): Apply soil erosion reduction practices on 450,000 acres of cropland, grazingland, rangeland and forestland, preventing the loss of 675,000 tons of topsoil for a cumulative total of 3,375,000 tons of topsoil saved from the 2011 level to 2016.

STRATEGY 1.1 Reduce cropland erosion on 250,000 acres.

- Encourage implementation by land users of conservation tillage practices, crop residue management, cover crops, contour strips and other Best Management Practices on highly erodible cropland through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and other conservation initiatives.
- SWCD will develop Best Management Practices Plans specific to individual landuser operations.

STRATEGY 1.2 Reduce grazingland/rangeland erosion on 100,000 acres.

- Cause the implementation of planned grazing systems, streambank restoration practices, and multiple land use plans on grazingland through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program and Conservation Stewardship Program.
- SWCDs will develop grazing plans that protect integrity of pastureland soils by promoting grazing management and diversity of land uses.
- Maintain native vegetation and hydrology on rangeland through the EQIP and the CSP.
- SWCDs will work to develop individual conservation plans to enhance native range vegetation and restore hydrology (historic drainage patterns).

STRATEGY 1.3 Reduce forestland erosion on 50,000 acres.

- Promote conservation measures such as tree and shrub establishment on marginal cropland and barren land through the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP), EQIP and CSP programs.
- SWCDs will work with individual landowners to develop forest management plans and to promote forest stewardship on private lands.

STRATEGY 1.4 Ensure the availability of current scientific soils data and information to continue the development and application of effective conservation practices.

- Maintain the Cooperative Soil Survey Agreement with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service.
- OSWC and SWCD will continually review and update program requirements.
- Assist the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service in revising soil classifications and soil use properties.

- SWCD and OSWC will periodically revise soil classifications through detailed field assessments.
- Continue conversion of soils data information to computer digital format.
- Provide land users with current site specific soils information for selected uses.

Accountability (Performance Indicators):

- *Reduction in Soil Erosion: Acres treated
- *Reduction in Soil Erosion: Ton of topsoil saved
- * No. of Landowners Provided Technical Assistance

CUSTOMERS

- Land users/Cooperators
- Legislature
- Conservation Districts

LIMITING FACTORS

- Funding
- Soil Types/Topography
- Landuse Practices
- Seasonal Environmental Conditions

OBJECTIVE II. (REDUCTION OF AG WASTE): Reduce the disposal of agriculture solid waste from agricultural processing operations by increasing its beneficial use as organic fertilizer, mulch, and other useful products to 54% from the 2011 level to 2016.

STRATEGY 2.1 Increase beneficial use of agricultural organic waste from processing operations by 5%

- Implement agriculture solid waste and nutrient management plans for agriculture processors such as sugar and rice mills, cotton gins, and seafood processors.
- OSWC will determine need and design of waste management plan upon inspection and monitoring of processing facility.
- Assist processors to develop waste management plans that meet all state and federal environmental laws and regulations.

STRATEGY 2.2 Manage and reduce disposal of waste from 100 animal waste facilities

- Design, implement, and/or rehabilitate animal waste management systems on livestock operations such as dairy farms, cattle and pork feedlots, and poultry operations through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program and other state and federal environmental programs.
- OSWC works with partnering agencies to determine need and design of waste management system.
- Design and implement agriculture nutrient management systems which promote utilization of agricultural waste, soil testing for fertilizer application, streamside management zones and buffers, legume cover crops, and green manure crops.

- OSWC determines the rate of nutrient application for site specific animal waste applications and land cover based on soils analysis.

STRATEGY 2.3 Design and implement composting and other beneficial use BMP plans for agricultural and other organic wastes for 60% of agriculture processors.

- OSWC and SWCDs evaluate agriculture operations as needed for development of composting plan.
- Assist processor in seeking viable waste use options.

Accountability (Performance Indicators):

- * Percent of Agricultural Waste Utilized for Beneficial Use.
(Field application of fertilizer or mulch, etc.)

- * Number of Waste Management Plans Developed

- * Number of Site Specific Waste Management Plans Implemented.

CUSTOMERS

- Local citizens/Community
- Private landowners
- Ag Processors
- Legislature
- Conservation Districts

LIMITING FACTORS

- Funding
- Product demand
- Soil Type/Topography
- Landuse practices
- Seasonal Environmental Conditions

OBJECTIVE III. (PROTECTION OF WETLANDS AND WILDLIFE HABITAT):

Re-vegetate an additional 150 miles of coastal and interior shoreline for a cumulative total of 795 miles by 2016 and protect, enhance and restore 1,200,000 acres of inland and coastal wetlands, and wildlife habitat.

STRATEGY 3.1 Enhance upland wildlife habitat on 100,000 acres

- Assist landowners to develop conservation plans on agricultural lands to include shelterbelts, field borders, riparian corridors and other wildlife management practices through the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program, the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, and the Conservation Reserve Program.
- SWCD will assist to evaluate and rank area for habitat suitability and type and establish project priorities for enrollment in appropriate programs.

STRATEGY 3.2 Restore and enhance 100,000 acres of interior wetlands and bottomland hardwoods on marginal cropland.

- Encourage the reestablishment of bottomland hardwoods and/or traditional hydrology regimes on marginal cropland through the Wetlands Reserve Program ,the Ducks Unlimited-Louisiana Waterfowl Project and other programs.
- SWCD will assist in determination of site suitability for wetland and wildlife habitat value and enrollment in appropriate programs.

STRATEGY 3.3 Re-vegetate 150 miles of coastal and interior shorelines and develop, revise, and implement plans to enhance 950,000 acres of coastal and interior marshlands.

- Continue implementation of the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority CPRA) -LDAF/OSWC Coastal Marsh Re-vegetation Program.
- OSWC, SWCD evaluate sites for various environmental factors affecting success of re-vegetation projects.
- OSWC will continue to actively participate on the Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Task Force.
- Plan and implement marsh re-vegetation and restoration projects for Coastal Zone Parishes
- OSWC will establish project priorities for the Coastal re-vegetation Program.
- OSWC will work with state and federal agencies in developing and implementing Coastal Wetland Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act Projects.
- OSWC will work with other state agencies in implementation of the Louisiana Coastal Conservation and Restoration Program.

Accountability (Performance Indicators)

- *Acres of agricultural wetlands restored during year
- *Acres of wetland habitat managed during year
- *Miles of shoreline treated for erosion control

CUSTOMERS

- Landowners
- Recreational & Commercial Fishermen
- Parish Governments
- Interagency Personnel
- Conservation Districts
- Legislature

LIMITING FACTORS

- Climate/Storm events
- Funding
- Landowner management objectives
- Soil Type/Texture
- Herbivore damage
- Landowner participation
- Economic feasibility of erosion control practices

OBJECTIVE IV.(WATER QUALITY): Reduce water quality impairments caused by agriculture production and processes establishment of vegetative Buffers riparian acres and nutrient management.

STRATEGY 4.1 Establish a total of 400,000 feet of vegetative buffer (filter strips) between agricultural lands and waterways.

- Establish conservation practices such as riparian buffers, filter strips, grassed waterways, and wellhead protection areas through the CRP, EQIP and CSP.
- SWCDs evaluate impairments to water bodies resulting from agricultural processes and establish watershed management approaches to address identified causes.

STRATEGY 4.2 Restore 2,080 miles of riparian habitat

- Implement conservation and restoration practices to protect streambanks at cattle crossings and watering areas.
- SWCD will design and implement appropriate conservation management systems.

STRATEGY 4.4 Reduce or eliminate discharge and runoff from 100 animal waste facilities. (Similar effort as in STRATEGY 2.2)

- Design, implement and rehabilitate animal waste management systems on livestock operations such as dairy farm, cattle and pork feedlots, and poultry operations through the EQIP and other state and federal environmental programs.
- OSWC works with partnering agencies to determine need and design of animal waste management systems.
- Design and implement agriculture nutrient management systems which promote utilization of agricultural waste, soil testing for fertilizer application, streamside management zones and buffers, legume cover crops, and green manure crops.
- Determine the rate of site specific nutrient application for solid wastes, soils and land cover.

Accountability (Performance Indicators)

- * Miles of vegetated buffer established.
- * Miles of riparian habitat restored.
- * No. of certified agriculture wetlands determinations completed.
- * Number of animal waste management systems implemented

* Acres of nutrient management systems implemented

CUSTOMERS

- Local citizens
- Land users
- Interagency Personnel
- Conservation Districts
- Legislature
- Formal and non formal educators

LIMITING FACTORS

- Funding
- Climate
- Hydrology
- Teacher Participation
- Landuser Participation

OBJECTIVE V. (CONSERVATION INFORMATION EDUCATION AND OUTREACH):

Soil and water conservation training events will be conducted for 2,500 educators; school and community water festivals and Soil & Water Stewardship events will be conducted for 75,000 grade school students; 125 agricultural producers will be certified as Louisiana Master Farmers; Agricultural Prescribed Burning certifications will be issued/reissued for 1250 producers and 220 Locally-Led Conservation planning meetings will be conducted from 2011 to 2016.

Soil and water conservation education events will be conducted in schools and communities throughout the state, with special emphasis placed on those areas in which nonpoint source pollution, aquifer overdraft and other soil and water concerns are deemed most critical. Soil and water conservation materials will be disseminated through school and community venues.

STRATEGY 5.1 50 Project WET (Water Education for Teachers), Wonders of Wetlands, or Healthy Water, Healthy People workshops for educators will be planned and implemented.

- OSWC and SWCDs will work with school administrators, Parish science supervisors, university education methods professors and others to plan educator workshops
- OSWC will work with other resource conservation agencies and organizations to maximize content and outreach potential.
- Correlate workshop activities to Grade Level Expectations as funding permits to maximize educator/student classroom relevance.
- Give priority to workshops planned in areas subject to NPS impairments, aquifer overdraft, etc.

STRATEGY 5.2 5 Water festivals and 150 Soil & Water Stewardship events will be conducted for schools and communities.

- Design a series of interactive activity stations for each water festival that illustrate local conservation concerns, needs and solutions

-OSWC will work with SWCDs to encourage local participation in the annually revised Soil Stewardship Program and to tailor the information to local natural resource concerns.

STRATEGY 5.3 Master Farmer training sessions will be conducted as necessary to accommodate enrollment of agricultural producers into the LA Master Farmer Program.

- The OSWC and the local SWCDs will coordinate with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and the LSU Agricultural Center to maximize participation in the Master Farmer training sessions.
- The SWCDs will work with the USDA-NRCS and LSU to establish model farms as proving grounds and Master Farmer training sites.
- The SWCDs will review and approve Resource Management System conservation plans as required for producer certification as LA Master Farmers.
- the OSWC will document completion of all Master Farmer certification requirements.

STRATEGY 5.4 Agricultural Prescribed Burning Certification training sessions will be conducted twice annually or as necessary to ensure maximum enrollment and participation by producers.

- the OSWC will work with the LSU Agricultural Center to plan and implement burning certification trainings as necessary.

STRATEGY 5.5 Each Soil & Water Conservation District will host at least one Locally-Led Conservation Planning meeting annually to determine local conservation needs and priorities.

- the SWCDs will coordinate with the USDA-NRCS to advertise and to set up meeting times and places for maximum stakeholder and public attendance.
- the SWCDs will utilize information gathered and priorities established to guide their local efforts in conservation program delivery

Accountability (Performance Indicators)

- * Number of educators trained in water and wetlands conservation
- *Number of students reached through conservation festivals and soil stewardship events.
- *Number of LA Master Farmers certified.

- * Number of producers certified/recertified for agricultural prescribed burning.
- * Number of Locally-Led conservation planning meetings conducted.

CUSTOMERS

- Local citizens
- Land users
- Interagency Personnel
- Conservation Districts
- Legislature
- Formal and non-formal educators

LIMITING FACTORS

- Funding
- Teacher Participation
- Public Participation
- Land User/Producer participation